

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Proposed Modifications to the)
Missouri Universal Service Fund) **Case No. TO-2019-0346**

STAFF’S NOTICE REGARDING BOARD MEETING

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Notice Regarding Board Meeting* in this matter hereby states:

1. The Commission opened this docket May 15, 2019, to consider recommendations regarding the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF). The Commission ultimately issued an order to suspend the MoUSF fund assessment and to increase the support amount provided to Lifeline members receiving voice-only services in its *Order* issued November 21, 2019, in accordance with Staff’s recommendations. Staff annually provides the Commission with its updated recommendation based on its most recent review of the MoUSF.

2. The Universal Service Fund Board at its October 2021 meeting approved two recommendations that need to be formally reflected in a Commission order:¹

- Further extend the suspension of the MoUSF assessment to September 30, 2022.
- Increase MoUSF support from \$18.75 to \$24.00 for Lifeline voice-only service on December 1, 2021 on the condition the FCC eliminates federal Lifeline support for this service. Companies should have the flexibility to implement this increased MoUSF support any time between December 1, 2021 and February 1, 2022.

¹ The Missouri USF Board also approved a form and process for enrolling Lifeline voice-only service subscribers; however, this action is within the sole discretion of the Missouri USF Board and does not need to be documented in a Commission order.

3. In taking these actions, Staff recommends the Missouri Commission reflect in the same Commission order the following administrative directive:²

- Direct Staff to file updated fund financial information and an assessment recommendation by June 1, 2022.

4. Staff will provide additional notice in this docket as to whether the FCC proceeds with discontinuing federal support of voice-only Lifeline services in December 2021.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Notice*; continue suspension of the MoUSF assessment; raise the amount of Missouri support for voice-only Lifeline services from \$18.75 to \$24.00 if the FCC discontinues federal support; direct Staff to file updated fund financial information and assessment recommendation and grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

/s/ Whitney Payne
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² This administrative recommendation is described in Staff's Notice filed on September 2, 2021.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 29th day of October, 2021, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Whitney Payne