

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

In the Matter of the Application of Conexon)
Connect, LLC to Expand its Eligible)
Telecommunications Carrier Designation to)
Participate in the Missouri Universal Service)
Fund and Receive MoUSF Subsidies)

Case No. DA-2021-0292

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

1. On February 24, 2021, the Commission granted Conexon Connect, LLC, (Company or Conexon) eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status for certain census blocks identified in the Exhibit A filed with its *Petition* in that matter (Case No. DA-2021-0193). The status permits the Company to receive federal low-income support and high-cost support pursuant to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction held by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Company also sought support through the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF) for Lifeline and Disabled program purposes. However, the Commission’s *Order* granting ETC status did not authorize MoUSF support. Conexon on March 16, 2021, filed a request in this matter for the Commission’s authority to participate in the MoUSF.

2. Commission rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governs the specific eligible telecommunications carrier requirements that each applicant must meet. Applications must also comply with 20 CSR 4240-2.060 and shall be verified by oath as to the truthfulness contained in the application by an officer or director of the applicant.

3. The Company is presently registered in the state of Missouri as interconnected voice over internet protocol (IVoIP) service provider and has ETC status.

4. Staff recommends pursuant to its investigation that Conexon has met the requirements of 20 CSR 4240-31.016 and should be eligible to receive MoUSF support for Lifeline and Disabled program purposes.

WHEREFORE, Staff recommends that the Commission approve Conexon Connect, LLC's, request for MoUSF low-income and disabled program support for the census blocks identified in Exhibit A of the *Petition* filed in DA-2021-0193; and that it grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Whitney Payne

Whitney Payne
Senior Counsel
Missouri Bar No. 64078
Attorney for the Staff of the
Missouri Public Service Commission
P. O. Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-8706 (Telephone)
(573) 751-9285 (Fax)
whitney.payne@psc.mo.gov

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 15th day of April, 2021, to all counsel of record.

/s/ Whitney Payne