

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

In the Matter of the Application of Clay            )  
County Connect, Inc. for Designation as        )  
an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in        )  
the State of Missouri                                )  
**Case No. DA-2026-0062**

**ORDER GRANTING DESIGNATION AS  
AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

Issue Date: October 15, 2025

Effective Date: October 25, 2025

On September 9, 2025,<sup>1</sup> Clay County Connect, Inc. (Clay County) applied for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to provide Lifeline service to qualifying low-income Missouri customers. Clay County requested ETC designation in the service areas of the incumbent local exchange carriers listed in Exhibit B attached to its application (Windstream Communications and Brightspeed of Missouri, LLC). The Commission issued notice and set a deadline for intervention. No intervention requests were received.

Clay County is currently certificated in the state of Missouri as an Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service provider. Clay County was granted that certification in Case No. DA-2021-0026.

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) reviewed the request and, on October 1, filed its recommendation and memorandum. Staff stated Clay County met the requirements of Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-31.016 governing eligible telecommunications carriers. Staff recommended that the Commission approve Clay County’s request to be designated

---

<sup>1</sup> All dates refer to 2025 unless otherwise stated.

an ETC for the purpose of receiving federal low-income support for the Lifeline program in the area identified in Exhibit B of its application.

Under federal authority, the application is within the Commission's jurisdiction to decide.<sup>2</sup> Since no law requires a hearing, this is a non-contested case.<sup>3</sup> Non-contested cases do not require formal proceedings or hearings before the Commission.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, the Commission bases its decision on the verified filings. Based upon its review of the verified application and Staff's recommendation and memorandum, the Commission finds that Clay County has met the requirements for ETC designation.

In order to expeditiously allow Clay County to serve customers needing Lifeline service, the Commission finds it reasonable to make this order effective in less than 30 days.

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

1. Clay County Connect, Inc. is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier to receive federal low-income support for the Lifeline program in the requested areas stated in Exhibit B of its application.
2. This order shall become effective on October 25, 2025.
3. This file shall be closed on October 26, 2025.

---

<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of Kansas City Power & Light Co.'s Request for Authority to Implement a General Rate Increase for Elec. Serv. v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 509 S.W.3d 757, 783-784 (Mo. App. W.D. 2016).

<sup>4</sup> *State ex rel. Pub. Counsel v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 210 S.W.3d 344, 353-354 (Mo. App. W.D. 2006).



**BY THE COMMISSION**

*Nancy Dippell*

Nancy Dippell  
Secretary

Charles Hatcher, Senior Regulatory Law Judge,  
by delegation of authority pursuant to  
Section 386.240, RSMo 2016.

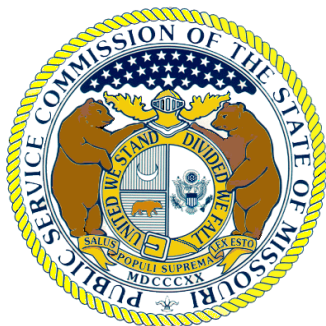
Dated at Jefferson City, Missouri,  
on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.**

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.**



*Nancy Dippell*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Nancy Dippell**  
**Secretary**

**MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**October 15, 2025**

**File/Case No. DA-2026-0062**

**MO PSC Staff**

Staff Counsel Department  
200 Madison Street, Suite 800  
P.O. Box 360  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
staffcounsel@psc.mo.gov

**Office of the Public Counsel  
(OPC)**

Marc Poston  
200 Madison Street, Suite 650  
P.O. Box 2230  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
opc@opc.mo.gov

**Clay County Connect, Inc.**

William Steinmeier  
2031 Tower Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
wds@wdscc.com

**MO PSC Staff**

Mark Johnson  
200 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
mark.johnson@psc.mo.gov

**Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).**

*Sincerely,*



**Nancy Dippell  
Secretary**

---

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.