



2022 MATCHING ACTIVITIES REVIEW AND REPORT

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Federal Communications Commission **2022 Matching Activities Review and Report**

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(u)(3)(D) and section 14 of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-108,¹ the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) submits this report on the computer matching programs in which it participated during 2022.

I. Data Integrity Board Members

Mark Stephens, Managing Director
David Hunt, Inspector General²
Michele Ellison, General Counsel
Allen Hill, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Office of Managing Director (OMD)³
Jennifer Bilbrey, Special Advisor to the CIO, OMD
Christopher Webber, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), OMD⁴
Jae Seong, Chief Financial Officer, OMD
Ellen Standiford, Acting Chief Human Capital Officer, OMD
MaryKay Mitchell, Chief Administrative Officer, OMD
Mary Moore, Manager, Security Operations Center, OMD
Elliot Tarloff, Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP), Office of General Counsel (OGC)⁵

II. Data Integrity Board Secretary

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III. Matching Programs

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-503) requires the Data Integrity Board (DIB) of each Federal agency to review its matching activities on a yearly basis. 5 U.S.C. § 552a(u)(3)(D). The DIB took action in 2022 to enter into 13 new or reestablished

¹ Office of Management and Budget, to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, Circular No. A-108, *Federal Agency Responsibilities for Reviewing, Reporting, and Publication Under the Privacy Act* (2016), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/circulars/A108/omb_circular_a-108.pdf.

² Sharon Diskin became Acting Inspector General on Jan. 10, 2023.

³ Allen Hill became CIO on July 27, 2022. Prior to that, Andrea Simpson was Acting CIO and Chief Information Security Officer.

⁴ Christopher Webber became CISO on March 27, 2023.

⁵ Elliot Tarloff became SAOP on April 26, 2022. Prior to that, Linda L. Oliver was Acting SAOP.

computer matching agreements (CMAs), 10 1-year CMA renewals, and one modification of a CMA, in which the FCC acted as the “recipient agency” as that term is defined in 5 U.S.C. § 552a(a)(9). At the close of 2022, the FCC was engaged in a total of 26 matching programs.⁶ These activities are discussed below.

Background on FCC Matching Programs

The FCC’s Lifeline program provides support for discounted broadband and voice services to low-income consumers. Consumers qualify for Lifeline through proof of income or participation in a qualifying federal benefit program, such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit.

In a Report and Order adopted on March 31, 2016, the Commission ordered the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to create a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier) that would match data about Lifeline program applicants and subscribers with other data sources to verify their eligibility. *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Order et al.*, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016).

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Congress created the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP), and directed the FCC to use the National Verifier to determine EBBP eligibility based on various criteria, including the qualifications for Lifeline (Medicaid, SNAP, etc.).⁷ The EBBP provided \$3.2 billion in total funding to support monthly consumer discounts on broadband service and a one-time provider reimbursement for providing a connected device (laptop, desktop computer, or tablet) to a qualifying subscriber. In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congress modified and extended EBBP, provided an additional \$14.2 billion, and renamed it the Affordable Connectivity Program.⁸

The FCC records matched in these matching programs are maintained in the following Systems of Records, as that term is defined in the Privacy Act:

1. the FCC/WCB-1, Lifeline Program system of records, 86 Fed. Reg. 11526 (Feb. 25, 2021), or
2. the FCC/WCB-3, Affordable Connectivity Program system of records, 86 Fed. Reg. 71494 (Dec. 16, 2021).

⁶ All of the Commission’s matching agreements can be found on the agency’s dedicated Privacy Act Information webpage , <https://www.fcc.gov/managing-director/privacy-transparency/privacy-act-information#matching>

⁷ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182, 2129-36 (2020) (codified, as amended, at 47 U.S.C. § 1752).

⁸ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429, 1238-44 (2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. §§ 1751-52).

New, Reestablished, and Modified CMAs, and 1-Year Renewals

In 2022, the FCC's Data Integrity Board (DIB) reviewed and approved 13 new or reestablished CMAs, 10 1-year renewals, and one modification of a CMA. These agreements govern matching programs in which the FCC and USAC compare Lifeline and ACP applicant and subscriber lists against lists of persons enrolled in qualifying programs, as follows:

1. On January 12, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider modification of a CMA between the FCC and one Federal agency:
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved a modification to an existing agreement to permit matching to verify ACP eligibility in addition to Lifeline and EBBP eligibility. The matching notice for the original agreement was published at 86 Fed. Reg. 14426 (Mar. 16, 2021).

2. On January 24, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:
 - Virginia Department of Social Services (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and Medicaid. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 12167 (Mar. 3, 2022). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

3. On January 26, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:
 - Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and Medicaid. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 12454 (Mar. 4, 2021). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

4. On February 16, 2022 the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:
 - South Carolina Department of Social Services (SNAP)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 14264 (Mar. 14, 2022). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

5. On May 4, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider 1-year renewals of CMAs between the FCC and two non-Federal agencies:
 - Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency (SNAP and Medicaid)
 - Minnesota Department of Human Services (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved these agreements, which permit matching to verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and Medicaid. *See* 85 Fed. Reg. 62728 (Oct. 5, 2020). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

6. On July 29, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of CMAs between the FCC and six non-Federal agencies:
 - Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology (SNAP and Medicaid)
 - Mississippi Department of Human Services (SNAP)
 - Missouri Department of Social Services (SNAP and Medicaid)
 - North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SNAP)
 - Tennessee Department of Human Services (SNAP)
 - Utah Department of Workforce Services (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved these agreements, which permit matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and/or Medicaid. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 55431 (Sept. 9, 2022) (Colorado); 87 Fed. Reg. 55429 (Sept. 9, 2022) (Mississippi); 87 Fed. Reg. 54499 (Sept. 6, 2022) (Missouri); 87 Fed. Reg. 54502 (Sept. 6, 2022) (North Carolina); 87 Fed. Reg. 54503 (Sept. 6, 2022) (Tennessee); 87 Fed. Reg. 55430 (Sept. 9, 2022) (Utah). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

7. On August 2, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider 1-year renewals of CMAs between the FCC and one non-Federal agency and one Federal Agency:
 - Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family Resources (SNAP and Medicaid)
 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved these agreements, which permit matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and/or Medicaid. *See* 86 Fed. Reg. 14430 (Mar. 16, 2021) (Indiana); 86 Fed. Reg.

14426 (Mar. 16, 2021) (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

8. On August 18, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the 1-year renewal of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP, Medicaid, or SSI. *See* 86 Fed. Reg. 17841 (Apr. 6, 2021). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

9. On August 26, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the 1-year renewal of two CMAs between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved these agreements, which permit matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and Medicaid. *See* 86 Fed. Reg. 13372 (Mar. 8, 2021) (Pennsylvania Lifeline); 86 Fed. Reg. 12445 (Mar. 3, 2021) (Pennsylvania ACP). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

10. On August 26, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one Federal agency:

- Department of Veterans Affairs (Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 61015 (Oct. 7, 2022). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

11. On September 1, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP and Medicaid. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 61016 (Oct. 7, 2022). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

12. On October 11, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the 1-year renewal of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self-Sufficiency (SNAP and Medicaid)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP or Medicaid. *See* 86 Fed. Reg. 17838 (Apr.6, 2021). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

13. On October 19, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Revenue (SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP, Medicaid, or SSI. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 73300 (Nov. 29, 2022). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

14. On October 26, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the establishment of a CMA between the FCC and one non-Federal agency:

- Arizona Department of Economic Security (SNAP and Tribal TANF)

At the meeting, the DIB approved this agreement, which permits matching to verify Lifeline and ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP or Tribal TANF. *See* 87 Fed. Reg. 74146 (Dec. 2, 2022). In its review of this agreement, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

15. On October 28, 2022, the DIB conducted a virtual meeting to consider the 1-year extension of CMAs between the FCC and three non-Federal agencies:

- Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Division of Family Support (SNAP and Medicaid)
- Puerto Rico Department of the Family (PAN)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Department of Revenue (SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI)

At the meeting, the DIB approved these agreements, which permit matching to verify Lifeline and/or ACP eligibility by establishing that applicants or subscribers are enrolled in SNAP, Medicaid, SSI or PAN. *See* 86 Fed. Reg. 32928 (June 23, 2021) (Kentucky Lifeline-ACP); 86 FR 17837 (Apr. 6, 2021) (Puerto Rico Lifeline-ACP); and 86 Fed. Reg. 17391

(Apr. 2, 2021) (Wisconsin ACP). In its review of these agreements, the DIB determined that the benefits of the matching activity were greater than the costs.

Conduct of FCC Matching Programs in 2022

The FCC DIB affirms that all disclosures of agency records for use in the agency's matching programs continue to be justified, and that the agency has fully adhered to the terms of each matching agreement.

Each matching agreement that the FCC participated in during 2022 had a favorable cost-benefit ratio.

IV. Cost-Benefit Waivers

The FCC DIB did not waive the requirement of a cost-benefit analysis for any matching agreement in which it participated during 2022.

V. Disapproval

The FCC DIB did not disapprove any matching agreements in 2022.

VI. Violations

There were no alleged or identified violations of FCC matching agreements in 2022.