

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: May 25, 2016

In the Matter of Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) Review

PUC Docket Number/s: P999/CI-16-302

Comment Period: Initial comment period closes June 27, 2016 at 4:30pm

Reply comment period closes July 8, 2016 at 4:30pm

Comments must be received by 4:30pm on the close date

Comments received after comment period closes may not be considered

Topic/s Open for Comment:

- Should the Commission issue any clarifications with respect to TAP eligibility?
- Should the Commission issue any other clarifications in an Order regarding TAP?
- If any clarifications should be made, please cite to relevant portions of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 237 or other relevant law.
- Should other changes to the TAP program, its administration, participation rates, or funding levels be considered as a result of the FCC Lifeline Modernization Order? If so, what specific steps would be required to make any such change?

Project Background: On April 27, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued its Lifeline Modernization Order (WC Dockets 11-42, 09-197, and 10-90). The Order has the effect, among other things, of changing the programs that confer eligibility on subscribers to the Lifeline program, and phasing out assistance to subscribers of voice only services. Eligibility changes for new Lifeline subscribers start on December 1, 2016. The FCC will allow the federal Lifeline credit to be used for broadband service alone or to be bundled with voice and data service packages.

The TAP program, governed by Minn. Stats. §§237.69-.71, contains provisions referring to “local service providers” and “local exchange service.” It also states that TAP “must” provide a credit to a residential household that is eligible for the “federal Lifeline telephone service discount.” The Commission is seeking input on whether it should offer clarifications as to eligibility for the TAP program effective December 1, 2016, and in particular, whether TAP funds may be applied to broadband service.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are **required** to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eFiling*, and follow the prompts.

Submit Public Comments: Visit mn.gov/puc, select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

- *If you wish to include an exhibit, map or other attachment, please send your comments via U.S. Mail.*

Send U.S. Mail to Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the Commission's docket number in all communications.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select *Search eDockets*, enter the year (2016) and the docket number (302), select *Search*.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed in this docket at mn.gov/puc, select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michael McCarthy, at Michael.mccarthy@state.mn.us or 615-201-2208.

Change your mailing preferences: Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204

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