## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1325 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**October 5, 2023** 

## FORMAL CASE NO. 988, IN THE MATTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE STANDARDS AND THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE TRUST FUND FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

1. The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia ("Commission") hereby gives notice that, on September 29, 2023, the District of Columbia Universal Service Trust Fund Administrator ("DC USTF Administrator"), Solix, Inc. ("Solix"), submitted a proposed 2024 calendar year budget, including a proposed assessment rate of 0.002 or 0.2% ("Proposed 2024 USTF Budget").<sup>1</sup>

2. The Proposed 2024 DC USTF Budget recommends a budget not to exceed \$427,500, a decrease from the 2023 DC USTF budget of \$487,500. The Proposed 2024 DC USTF Budget includes a decrease to the Lifeline distribution line item (\$44,000). The Proposed 2024 DC USTF Budget also includes a decrease for the Telecommunications Relay Service ("TRS") line item (\$126,000) and no change for the Captioned Telephone line item (\$16,000) based on the current contracts with Hamilton Relay; no change for the independent audit (\$28,000) line item; no change to the DC USTF Administrator administrative fees (\$80,000); no change to the TRS Advisory Board fees (\$2,000); and an increase to the Consumer Education Program ("CEP") line item (\$45,000), which includes both the CEP and funding for Department of Energy and Environment ("DOEE") outreach staff. There is a \$1,000 line item for printing costs assessed by DOEE to promote Lifeline service, labeled as the DOEE Printer. Solix proposes to reduce the year end carryover fund balance by \$197,300 to offset the 2024 budgetary expenses. This proposed budget combined with the reported and estimated retail revenues of \$115,082,867 yields a proposed assessment rate of 0.002 or 0.2% which is a decrease in the assessment rate for the 2024 budget.<sup>2</sup> Contributors to the DC USTF will pay a decreased assessment in the calendar year 2024.

3. All persons interested in commenting on the Proposed 2024 DC USTF Budget may submit written comments and reply comments not later than 10 and 20 days, respectively, after the Commission's issuance of this Notice. Comments are to be addressed to Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick, Commission Secretary, Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, 1325 G Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20005 and submitted electronically on the Commission's website at <a href="https://edocket.dcpsc.org/public/public\_comments">https://edocket.dcpsc.org/public/public\_comments</a>. Copies of the Proposed 2024 DC USTF budget may be obtained by visiting the Commission's website at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Formal Case No. 988, In the Matter of the Development of Universal Service Standards and the Universal Service Trust Fund for the District of Columbia, Recommendation of the DC USTF 2024 Budget ("Proposed 2024 DC USTF Budget"), filed September 29, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Proposed 2024 DC USTF Budget, Attachment A.

<u>www.dcpsc.org</u>. Once at the website, open the "eDocket" tab, click on "Search Current Dockets" and input "FC 988" as the case number and "1396" as the item number. Copies may also be purchased at cost by contacting the Commission Secretary at (202) 626-5150 or <u>PSC-CommissionSecretary@dc.gov</u>.

A TRUE COPY:

**BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:** 

Brinde Deuthart . Sedgwich

**CHIEF CLERK:** 

BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK COMMISSION SECRETARY