

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

September 29, 2021

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 24, 2021, the District of Columbia Universal Service Trust Fund Administrator (“DC USTF Administrator”), Solix, Inc. (“Solix”), submitted a proposed 2022 calendar year budget, including a proposed assessment rate of 0.003149 or 0.3149% (“Proposed 2022 USTF Budget”).¹

2. The Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget recommends a budget not to exceed \$522,000, an increase from the 2021 DC USTF budget of \$387,500. The Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget includes an increase to the Lifeline distribution line item (\$93,000). The Proposed DC USTF 2022 Budget also includes a new \$68,000 line item for the Lifeline Eligibility Administrator (“LEVA”), which will process Lifeline certification and recertification applications. The increase in the Lifeline distribution line item and the addition of the line item for the LEVA are both necessitated by the anticipated end of federal Lifeline support for voice-only Lifeline service on December 1, 2021.² The Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget also includes increases for the Telecommunications Relay Service (“TRS”) line item (\$82,000) and the Captioned Telephone line item (\$18,000) based on the current contracts with Hamilton Relay; an increase 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 no change 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. The Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget contains a \$50,000 reduction in the fund balance to offset the 2022 budgetary expenses. This proposed budget combined with the reported and estimated retail revenues of \$149,894,656 yields a proposed assessment rate of 0.003149 or 0.3149%, which is an increase in the assessment rate for the 2022 budget.³ Contributors to the DC USTF will pay an increased assessment in the calendar year 2022.

¹ *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 2022 Budget (“Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget”), filed September 24, 2021.

² *See*, 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a)(2)(iv) (2020).

³ Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget, Attachment A.

3. All persons interested in commenting on the Proposed 2022 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 https://edocket.dcpssc.org/public/public_comments. Copies of the Proposed 2022 DC USTF budget may be obtained by visiting the Commission's website at www.dcpssc.org. Once at the website, open the "eDocket" tab, click on "Search Current Dockets" and input "FC 988" as the case number and "1325" as the item number. Copies may also be purchased at cost by contacting the Commission Secretary at (202) 626-5150 or PSC-CommissionSecretary@dc.gov.

A TRUE COPY:

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

CHIEF CLERK:

**BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK
COMMISSION SECRETARY**