

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

November 18, 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 November 12, 2021, the District of Columbia Universal Service Trust Fund Administrator (“DC USTF Administrator”), Solix, Inc. (“Solix”), submitted a revised proposed 2022 calendar year budget, amending the 2022 DC USTF budget approved in Order No. 21037¹ (“Revised Proposed 2022 USTF Budget”).² The Revised Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget retains the 2021 assessment rate of 0.002678 or 0.2678%.

2. The Revised Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget recommends a revised budget not to exceed \$401,375, a decrease from the approved 2022 DC USTF budget of \$522,000. The Revised Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget includes a decrease to the Lifeline distribution line item (\$65,100) from the approved 2022 DC USTF Budget. The Revised Proposed DC USTF 2022 Budget also removes the new \$68,000 line item for the Lifeline Eligibility Administrator (“LEVA”), which would have been required had the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) not postponed the phaseout of federal Lifeline support for voice-only Lifeline service scheduled for December 1, 2021.³ The Revised Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget also includes no changes to 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; the independent audit (\$28,000) line item; the DC USTF Administrator administrative fees (\$80,000); the TRS Advisory Board fees (\$2,000); and 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 Revised Proposed 2022 DC USTF

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 (“Formal Case No. 988”),* Order No. 21037, rel. October 20, 2021.

² *Formal Case No. 988, Recommendation of the DC USTF 2022 Budget (“Revised Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget”),* filed November 12, 2021. The Commission notes that Solix filed two Revised Budget filings on November 12, 2021, but refers to the later filing (Docket # 1334) in this public notice, since the later filing corrects an error in the earlier filing.

³ *See, 47 C.F.R. § 54.403(a)(2)(iv) (2020).* On November 5, 2021, the FCC postponed the phaseout of federal support for voice-only Lifeline for one year, so for 2022 the DC USTF does not have to replace the federal support or fund the LEVA. *See, See, In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, Connect America Fund,* WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197, 10-90, Order, DA 21-1389, rel. November 5, 2021.

Budget removes the \$50,000 reduction in the fund balance to offset the 2022 budgetary expenses since the revised budget is decreasing. This revised proposed budget combined with the reported and estimated retail revenues of \$149,894,656 yields a proposed assessment rate of 0.002678 or 0.2678%, which is the same as the assessment rate for the 2021 budget.⁴ Contributors to the DC USTF will pay the same assessment in calendar year 2022.

3. All persons interested in commenting on the Revised 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 “1334” 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**

⁴ Proposed 2022 DC USTF Budget, Attachment A.