

program the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “Commission” or “Agency”) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) will conduct with the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self Sufficiency. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of applicants to and subscribers of Lifeline, and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), both of which are administered by USAC under the direction of the FCC. More information about these programs is provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

**DATES:** Written comments are due on or before May 5, 2023. This computer matching program will commence on May 5, 2023, and will conclude 18 months after the effective date.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Elliot S. Tarloff, FCC, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554, or to [Privacy@fcc.gov](mailto:Privacy@fcc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elliot S. Tarloff at 202–418–0886 or [Privacy@fcc.gov](mailto:Privacy@fcc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Lifeline program provides support for discounted broadband and voice services to low-income consumers. Lifeline is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under FCC direction. Consumers qualify for Lifeline through proof of income or participation in a qualifying program, such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, or various Tribal-specific federal assistance programs.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. 116–260, 134 Stat. 1182, 2129–36 (2020), Congress created the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and directed use of the National Verifier to determine eligibility based on various criteria, including the qualifications for Lifeline (Medicaid, SNAP, etc.). EBBP provided \$3.2 billion in monthly consumer discounts for broadband service and one-time provider reimbursement for a connected device (laptop, desktop computer or tablet). In the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. 117–58, 135 Stat. 429, 1238–44 (2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1751–52), Congress modified and extended EBBP, provided an additional \$14.2 billion, and renamed it the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). A household may qualify for the ACP benefit under various criteria, including

an individual qualifying for the FCC’s Lifeline program.

In a Report and Order adopted on March 31, 2016, (81 FR 33026, May 24, 2016) (*2016 Lifeline Modernization Order*), the Commission ordered USAC to create a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (“National Verifier”), including the National Lifeline Eligibility Database (LED), that would match data about Lifeline applicants and subscribers with other data sources to verify the eligibility of an applicant or subscriber. The Commission found that the National Verifier would reduce compliance costs for Lifeline service providers, improve service for Lifeline subscribers, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the program.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 directs the FCC to leverage the National Verifier to verify applicants’ eligibility for ACP. The purpose of this matching program is to verify the eligibility of Lifeline and ACP applicants and subscribers by determining whether they receive SNAP and Medicaid benefits administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self Sufficiency.

#### Participating Agencies

Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self Sufficiency.

#### Authority for Conducting the Matching Program

The authority for the FCC’s ACP is Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117–58, 135 Stat. 429, 1238–44 (2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. 1751–52); 47 CFR part 54. The authority for the FCC’s Lifeline program is 47 U.S.C. 254; 47 CFR 54.400 through 54.423; Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, *et al.*, Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 4006–21, paras. 126–66 (2016) (*2016 Lifeline Modernization Order*).

#### Purpose(s)

The purpose of this modified matching agreement is to verify the eligibility of applicants and subscribers to Lifeline, as well as to ACP and other Federal programs that use qualification for Lifeline as an eligibility criterion. This new agreement will permit eligibility verification for the Lifeline program and ACP by checking an applicant’s/subscriber’s participation in SNAP and Medicaid in Florida. Under FCC rules, consumers receiving these benefits qualify for Lifeline discounts and also for ACP benefits.

#### Categories of Individuals

The categories of individuals whose information is involved in the matching program include, but are not limited to, those individuals who have applied for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are currently receiving Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are individuals who enable another individual in their household to qualify for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; are minors whose status qualifies a parent or guardian for Lifeline and/or ACP benefits; or are individuals who have received Lifeline and/or ACP benefits.

#### Categories of Records

The categories of records involved in the matching program include, but are not limited to, the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security Number, date of birth, and first and last name. The National Verifier will transfer these data elements to the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self Sufficiency, which will respond either “yes” or “no” that the individual is enrolled in a qualifying assistance program: SNAP and Medicaid administered by the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Economic Self Sufficiency.

#### System(s) of Records

The records shared as part of this matching program reside in the Lifeline system of records, FCC/WCB–1, Lifeline, which was published in the **Federal Register** at 86 FR 11526 (Feb. 25, 2021).

The records shared as part of this matching program reside in the ACP system of records, FCC/WCB–3, Affordable Connectivity Program, which was published in the **Federal Register** at 86 FR 71494 (Dec. 16, 2021).

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene Dortch,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2023–07067 Filed 4–4–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6712–01–P**

## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

### Notice of Agreements Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of filing of the following agreements under the Shipping Act of 1984. Interested parties may submit comments, relevant information, or documents regarding the agreements to the Secretary by email at [Secretary@fmc.gov](mailto:Secretary@fmc.gov), or by mail, Federal Maritime Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, Washington, DC 20573. Comments will be most helpful to the Commission if

received within 12 days of the date this notice appears in the **Federal Register**, and the Commission requests that comments be submitted within 7 days on agreements that request expedited review. Copies of agreements are available through the Commission's website ([www.fmc.gov](http://www.fmc.gov)) or by contacting the Office of Agreements at (202) 523-5793 or [tradeanalysis@fmc.gov](mailto:tradeanalysis@fmc.gov).

*Agreement No.:* 201402.

*Agreement Name:* American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier/Liberty Space Charter Agreement.

*Parties:* American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; Liberty Global Logistics LLC.

*Filing Party:* Bryant Gardner, Winston & Strawn LLP.

*Synopsis:* The Agreement would authorize the parties to discuss areas of potential cooperation and possibly engage in the purchasing of space on the vessels operated by one another for direct service or transshipment from ports and points in the United States, on the one hand, and ports and points in all other countries worldwide, on the other hand.

*Proposed Effective Date:* 5/8/2023.

*Location:* <https://www2.fmc.gov/FMC.Agreements.Web/Public/AgreementHistory/78502>.

Dated: March 31, 2023.

**JoAnne O'Bryant,**  
Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 2023-07075 Filed 4-4-23; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Docket No. CDC-2023-0020]

### Laboratory Recommendations for Syphilis Testing in the United States

**AGENCY:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ACTION:** Notice with comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announces the opening of a docket to obtain comment on the proposed Laboratory Recommendations for Syphilis Testing in the United States. The proposed recommendations for syphilis testing include laboratory-based tests, point-of-care tests, processing of samples, and reporting of test results. The recommendations are intended to aid laboratorians and

clinicians in the diagnosis of syphilis. These proposed recommendations are intended for use by clinical laboratory directors, laboratory staff, clinicians, and disease control personnel who must choose among the multiple available testing methods, establish standard operating procedures for collecting and processing specimens, interpret test results for laboratory reporting, and counsel and treat patients in the United States.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before June 5, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2023-0020 by either of the methods listed below. Do not submit comments by email. CDC does not accept comments by email.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail:* Division of STD Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop US12-2, Atlanta, GA 30329, Attn: Docket No. CDC-2023-0020.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and Docket Number. All relevant comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John R. Papp, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop U12-3, Atlanta, GA 30329; Telephone: 404-639-8000; Email: [jwp6@cdc.gov](mailto:jwp6@cdc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** CDC's proposed Laboratory Recommendations for Syphilis Testing in the United States is available under the Supporting and Related Materials tab in the docket for this notice, Docket No. CDC-2023-0020, on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

### Public Participation

Interested persons or organizations are invited to participate by submitting written views, recommendations, and data. In addition, CDC invites comments specifically on the following questions proposed in this Notice:

- Based on the evidence presented in the full recommendations document (see the Supporting and Related Materials tab in the docket), does the evidence support the proposed Laboratory Recommendations for Syphilis Testing in the United States? If not, please state the reason why and, if available, provide additional evidence for consideration.

- Are CDC's proposed Laboratory Recommendations for Syphilis Testing in the United States (see Supporting and Related Materials) clearly written? If not, what changes do you propose to make them clearer?

- If implemented as currently drafted, do you believe the proposed recommendations would result in improved laboratory testing for syphilis in the United States? If not, please provide an explanation and supporting data or evidence.

Please note that comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and are subject to public disclosure. Comments will be posted on <https://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, do not include any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure. If you include your name, contact information, or other information that identifies you in the body of your comments, that information will be on public display. CDC will review all submissions and may choose to redact, or withhold, submissions containing private or proprietary information such as Social Security numbers, medical information, inappropriate language, or duplicate/near duplicate examples of a mass-mail campaign. Do not submit comments by email. CDC does not accept comments by email.

### Background

Syphilis is a notifiable disease, with over 130,000 cases in the United States reported to the CDC in 2020 (CDC, 2020) and over 6 million new cases reported worldwide (World Health Organization, 2018). Syphilis is caused by *Treponema pallidum* subspecies *pallidum*. The United States is currently experiencing a syphilis epidemic, with sustained increases in primary and secondary syphilis. In 2000, 5,979 cases were reported; in 2020 the figure rose to 133,945 cases, a 2,140% increase (CDC, 2001, 2020). The epidemic is characterized by health disparities, particularly among sexual and gender minority populations, intersections with the HIV and substance use epidemics, and increased morbidity and mortality attributable to congenital syphilis infections (CDC, 2020). Laboratories play a critical role in the public health response to the syphilis epidemic. The responsibility of the laboratory is to test specimens and report results in a timely manner, allowing clinicians to efficiently make diagnoses and institute patient management protocols. Public health reporting by laboratories also allows local health departments and