GO MD USA LLC

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July 17, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

To Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-9052

Re: Go MD USA, LLC
Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

Dear Ms. Tanner:

Attached please find for filing Go MD USA LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

If you have any questions or if I may provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (901) 230-4697 or VP Jack Sosa at (833) 706-3872.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Schirmer
General Counsel
Go MD USA

Attachment

cc: Matt Palacios, CEO
Go MD USA LLC

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of GO MD USA LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Georgia for the Limited Purpose of Providing Lifeline Service to Qualifying Customers	DOCKET NO. _____

PETITION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF PROVIDING LIFELINE SERVICE TO QUALIFYING CUSTOMERS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION .....

II. COMPANY OVERVIEW.....

III. THE COMMISSION HAS JURISDICTION OVER DESIGNATION OF WIRELESS ETCS.....

IV. THE COMPANY MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION .....

A. GO MD USA LLC Wireless Is a Common Carrier .....

B. GO MD USA Will Offer the Services Supported by Federal Universal Service . .....

C. GO MD USA Will Offer the Services Designated for Support Using a Combination of Its Own Facilities and Resale .....

D. GO MD USA Will Provide GO MD USA Mobile-Branded Service Throughout Its Designated Service Area .....

E. The Company Will Advertise the Availability of GO MD USA Mobile Services and Charges Using Media of General Distribution

F. GO MD USA Will Comply with Service Requirements Applicable to the Support It Receives

G. GO MD USA Will Comply with Any Applicable Two-Year and Five-Year Plan Requirements

H. Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards

I. Ability to Remain Functional During Emergencies

J. GO MD USA Is Financially and Technically Capable

K. Terms and Conditions of Proposed Lifeline Offering

L. GO MD USA Mobile's Offerings Will Comply with Lifeline Certification and Annual Re- certification Requirements

M. Prevention of Waste, Fraud and Abuse

N. Commission Lifeline Requirements

V. GO MD USA MEETS THE COMMISSION'S REQUIREMENTS FOR

DESIGNATION AS AN ETC

A. GO MD USA Meets Georgia's Designation Requirements.

B. GO MD USA Will Comply with Georgia Compiled Rules and Regulations

C. GO MD USA Will Comply with the Commission's Certification Requirement

VI. DESIGNATING GO MD USA AS AN ETC WOULD PROMOTE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

A. Advantages of GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline Plans

B. Benefits of Competitive Choice

VII. ANTI-DRUG ABUSE CERTIFICATION.....

VIII. CONCLUSION .....

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit 1 – Verification

Exhibit 2 - Proposed Lifeline Plans

Exhibit 3 - Service Area Zip Codes

Exhibit 4 - Sample Advertising

Exhibit 5 – Financial Statement

Exhibit 6 – Key Personnel Bios

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of GO MD USA LLC FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER	DOCKET NO. _____

I. INTRODUCTION

GO MD USA LLC dba GO MD USA ("GO MD USA" or the "Company"), by its undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act")[1] and Sections 54.101 through 54.207[2] of the Rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"),[3] and the rules of the Georgia Public Service Commission (the "Commission"), including the Georgia Compiled Rules and Regulations Rue 515-12-1-.35,[4] hereby submits this Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the State of Georgia. The Company seeks ETC designation for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service under the brand name "GO MD USA Mobile" to qualifying Georgia consumers subject to the service areas served by the Company's underlying wireless carriers, AT&T and T-Mobile.

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1 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

2 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.101-54.207.

3 GO MD USA files this Application in accordance with the rules adopted by the FCC in the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order. See Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training, WC Docket Nos. 11-42 and 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012) ("2012 Lifeline Reform Order")

4 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 515-12-1-.35 (2021)

As demonstrated herein, and as certified in Exhibit 1 to this Petition, the Company meets all the federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in Georgia. Grant of this Petition, moreover, would advance the public interest because it would enable the Company to commence much needed Lifeline services to low-income Georgia residents as soon as possible. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Georgia Commission expeditiously approve this Petition.

All correspondence, communications, pleadings, notices, orders, and decisions relating to this Petition should be addressed to:

Mark Schirmer, Counsel
Go MD USA LLC
3385 Airways Blvd., Ste 201
Memphis, TN 38116
markschirmer1@gmail.com

II. COMPANY OVERVIEW

GO MD USA LLC is a South Dakota limited liability company with a principal address at 3385 Airways BLVD STE 201, Memphis, TN 38116. GO MD USA provides, among other things, resold wireless telecommunications services operating in Georgia and other states, using the GO MD USA Mobile brand name and other brand names.

GO MD USA's parent company, GO MD USA LLC ("GO MD USA"), is a connectivity company headquartered in Tennessee that has served as a disruptive force in mobile telehealth technologies. In 2023, GO MD USA entered the retail wireless business by creating GO MD USA Mobile brand in part by acquiring the GO MD USA Mobile brand as well as other brands and customer assets. Now, using its subcontracted licensed wireless spectrum assets, GO MD USA is building the nation's first virtualized, cloud-native, Open Mobile Telehealth Mobile Network - based 5G broadband network. To facilitate the buildout, GO MD USA will be

entering into multi-year agreements with multiple partners. Because GO MD USA is actively sub-contracting wireless facilities around the country, it is well positioned to identify opportunities to target build-outs in under-served areas.

Even as the 5G network partner relationships are expanding, GO MD USA will be competing in the retail wireless space and seeks to be an approved provider in the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program ("ACP").[5] Under the GO MD USA Mobile name, GO MD USA will use AT&T and T-Mobile wireless facilities to provide discounted mobile broadband service in all 50 states and the territories of Georgia, D.C. and Puerto Rico, including plans bundling voice, text messaging, and mobile broadband services.[6] Available GO MD USA Mobile branded plans include talk, text, and data at various data speeds under the ACP's monthly $30 subsidy for eligible consumers. GO MD USA will submit an application for ETC designation with the FCC (for the states of Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia, the "Non-Jurisdictional States"). GO MD USA seeks designation as a wireless ETC in Georgia, will seek authorization by the California Public Utilities Commission to provide California LifeLine service, and has filed or plans to file for ETC status in other states.

GO MD USA now seeks an ETC designation in Georgia so that it can (i) serve low-income Georgia customers, (ii) supplement the amount of support available to ACP customers and (iii) invite new, underserved customers to benefit from Lifeline and other federal support

[5] The United States Congress has yet to re-authorize the Affordable Connectivity Program, which has expired. We expect that the program will be revived, and we will be ready to participate if and when it is. The purpose of mentioning it in this petition is to demonstrate our familiarity with the program, our experience with it and our willingness and ability to participate in the future. Further, by providing Lifeline Service to eligible customers, the Company can provide them with the choice of Lifeline or ACP service immediately when Congress funds the ACP program.

[6] *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.1602(b) ("a bundle of broadband internet access service along with fixed or mobile voice telephony service, text messaging service, or both" is an EBB-eligible plan).

programs. GO MD USA's Lifeline-supported plans will be offered to prepaid customers under the GO MD USA Mobile brand, a recognized and trusted provider in this market segment. GO MD USA Mobile prepaid wireless plans are affordable, easy to use, and attractive to low-income consumers, providing them with connectivity that has become indispensable to participating in 2023 and beyond society and opportunities. GO MD USA Mobile customers can choose from several affordable prepaid calling plans and handsets and have access to high-quality, responsive customer service. GO MD USA Mobile prepaid plans start as low as $10 per month and can be refilled by contacting GO MD USA directly.

III. THE COMMISSION HAS JURISDICTION OVER DESIGNATION OF WIRELESS ETCS

Section 214(e)(2) of the Act provides state public utility commissions with the primary responsibility for the designation of ETCs.[7] Under the Act, a state public utility commission, like the Commission, with jurisdictional authority over ETC designations must designate a common carrier as an ETC if the carrier satisfies the requirements of Section 214(e)(1). Therefore, the Commission has the authority to designate GO MD USA as an ETC. As demonstrated below, GO MD USA fulfills the requirements to be designated as an ETC in Georgia.

IV. THE COMPANY MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION

An application for ETC designation in Georgia must meet specific federal statutory and regulatory requirements. As demonstrated below, GO MD USA meets the requirements for ETC designation by the FCC pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act. These include: (1) a certification that the applicant offers or intends to offer all services designated for support by the FCC pursuant to section 254(c) of the Communications Act; (2) a certification that

[7] 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2).

the applicant offers or intends to offer the supported services on a common carrier basis either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and/or resale of another carrier's services; (3) a description of how the applicant advertises the availability of the supported services and the charges therefor using media of general distribution; (4) a detailed description of the geographic service area for which the applicant requests to be designated as an ETC; and (5) a certification that neither the applicant, nor any party to the application, is subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988.[8] In addition, an applicant seeking designation as an ETC solely for the purpose of offering Lifeline service must: (1) certify that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support that it receives; (2) demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations; (3) demonstrate its ability to satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards; and (4) demonstrate that it is financially and technically capable of providing Lifeline service.

Finally, prior to designating a carrier as an ETC,[9] the Commission must determine whether such designation is in the public interest.[10] When making a public interest determination, the Commission needs to consider the benefits of increased consumer choice and the unique advantages and disadvantages of the applicant's service offerings.[11]

A. GO MD USA Is a Common Carrier

[8] 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) and (5); 47 C.F.R § 54.201(d)(1) and (2); 47 C.F.R § 54.207(a).

[9] 47 CFR § 54.202(a). Section 54.202(a)(ii) requires carriers seeking ETC designation that is not limited to Lifeline service to submit a five-year plan that describes proposed improvements to the carrier's network throughout the proposed service area. Although GO MD USA is not seeking high-cost support in this Petition, it is expanding its network through partner relationships and contracts 5G network in accordance with certain FCC-approved deadlines.

[10] 47 U.S.C. §214(e)(6); 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(b).

[11] *See, e.g., Virgin Mobile USA, L.P., Petitions for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Alabama, et al.*, WC Docket No. 09-197, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 17797 (2010).

GO MD USA provides, among other things, commercial mobile radio services (CMRS) that are regulated pursuant to the common carrier requirements of the Communications Act. The Company meets the common carrier requirement for ETC designation pursuant to Section 214(e)(1) of the Act and Section 54.201(d) of the FCC's rules.[12]

B. GO MD USA Will Offer the Services Supported by Federal Universal Service

Pursuant to Section 54.101(a) of the FCC's rules, GO MD USA' voice service provides the following:

(1) voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent;

(2) minutes of use for local service at no additional charge to end users;

(3) access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and (4) toll limitation services to qualifying low- income consumers.[13] As defined in Section 8.1(b) of the FCC's rules, GO MD USA also provides mobile broadband internet access service to consumers.[14]

C. GO MD USA Will Offer the Services Designated for Support Using a Combination of Its Partners' Facilities and Resale

GO MD USA, through the GO MD USA Mobile brand, offers the supported services--voice telephony service and broadband Internet access service, meeting the standards set in the

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[12] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 153(11) (defining a common carrier as "any person engaged as a common carrier for hire, in interstate or foreign communications by wire or radio ....."; 47 U.S.C. §332 (c)(1)(A) (treating commercial mobile service providers as common carriers).

[13] 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a); *see also* 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A).

[14] *See* 47 C.F.R. § 8.1(b).

FCC's rules.[15] GO MD USA will be providing and will provide mobile voice, text messaging, and broadband services to low-income consumers. The various Lifeline service plans that will be available to qualifying low-income Georgia residents are described in Exhibit 2.

In general, Section 214 requires ETCs to provide services using their facilities, at least in part. GO MD USA is in a unique position to increase wireless competition and serve low-income consumers. GO MD USA Mobile service plans are supported by AT&T and T-Mobile's networks. This will allow GO MD USA to immediately introduce new Lifeline options for Georgia consumers as soon as the Commission approves this Petition. At the same time, GO MD USA is building additional partner relationship in advanced nationwide 5G network services. In areas of Georgia where service on GO MD USA's subcontracted network is not yet available or where the Company does not yet offer Lifeline products on its partner networks, GO MD USA will provide service on a resale basis on the networks of AT&T and/or T-Mobile. Accordingly, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(b), GO MD USA will offer GO MD USA Mobile-branded services that are designated for federal universal support using a combination of its own facilities and/or resale of another carrier's services. ices in Georgia and other states, there is no need for GO MD USA to obtain an approved FCC Compliance Plan in accordance with the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*.[16]

[15] *See* 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a).

[16] *See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 368.

D. GO MD USA Will Provide GO MD USA Mobile-Branded Service Throughout Its Designated Service Area

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d), as an ETC, GO MD USA will provide service in the same 50-state footprint where it has and will offer ACP service – this includes the entire geographic boundary of the State of Georgia, subject to coverage limits of underlying carriers and GO MD USA's partner networks. Further, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i), the Company commits to provide service throughout its proposed service area on a timely basis to all customers making a reasonable request for service where facilities are available. GO MD USA requests ETC designation that is statewide in scope, within the limits of the accompanying list of zip codes Go MD USA currently is prepared to serve, to allow the Company to provide Lifeline service wherever its underlying, facilities-based providers have wireless coverage. The current Georgia coverage footprint by zip code is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

E. GO MD USA Will Advertise the Availability of GO MD USA Mobile Services and Charges Using Media of General Distribution

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(B) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(2), the Company will advertise the availability of GO MD USA Mobile-branded voice, text messaging, and broadband services through various marketing channels that may include direct mail, email, local and community outreach events, and targeted online electronic advertising. In addition, the availability of GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline service will be publicized in ways that are reasonably designed to reach those who will likely qualify for the service. The Company's marketing efforts will be consistent with and in compliance with Commission rules. A sample of the Company's Lifeline advertising are attached hereto as Exhibit 4.

The Company will also advertise Lifetime Services on its website.

F. GO MD USA Will Comply with Service Requirements Applicable to the Support It Receives

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i), GO MD USA will comply with the service

requirements applicable to the supported services it will be offering in the identified service areas. GO MD USA Mobile plans will be offered in Georgia initially by reselling AT&T and/or T-Mobile service, and in the future will also be supported by GO MD USA's own 5G network facilities when feasible. These providers' networks are operational and largely built out. Thus, the Company will be able to commence offering its Lifeline service to all locations served by its underlying carriers very soon after receiving approval from the Commission.

G. MD USA Will Comply with Any Applicable Two-Year and Five-Year Plan Requirements

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(ii), a common carrier seeking designation as a Lifeline-only ETC is not required to submit a five-year network improvement plan as part of its application for designation as an ETC. GO MD USA is in a unique position, however, because it is working on building a facilities-based 5G wireless network through partnerships with others. We are scheduled to deploy to most of the population of each Partial Economic Area by July 1, 2025. GO MD USA commits to providing service consistent with the requirements of any other support mechanism pursuant to which it is authorized to receive support in the future.

H. Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards

The Company commits to comply with all applicable consumer protection and service quality standards for universal service programs. As stated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(3), a wireless applicant's commitment to comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service ("CTIA Consumer Code") will satisfy this consumer protection and service quality requirement. GO MD USA commits to fully complying with the CTIA Consumer Code.

To ensure that consumer complaints and consumer issues ae dealt with quickly and efficiently, GO MD USA LLC designates Jack Sosa, the Company's Director of Operations, 3385 Airway Blvd, Ste 201, Memphis, TN 38116, Phone: 833-706-3872, Email: jack.sosa@gomdusa.net as the contact for consumer complaints. He will be the primary point of contact for the Commission in dealing with consumer complaints and GO MD USA LLC designates Jack Sosa, 3385 Airway Blvd, Ste 201, Memphis, TN 38116, Phone: 833-706-3872, Email: jack.sosa@gomdusa.net as the contact for consumer complaints from the Commission. It's website will also direct that written consumer issues be sent to his attention.

I. Ability to Remain Functional During Emergencies

The Company's services are able to remain functional in emergency situations as required by 47 C.F.R. Section 54.202(a)(2). GO MD USA' partner 5G network operates in a cloud-native environment that is not encumbered by traditional technology and will be more flexible and resilient in the event of service outages. In addition, GO MD USA relies on mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) partner networks that are designed to remain functional even without external power sources, are able to re-route traffic around damaged facilities, and can manage traffic spikes that may occur in emergency situations.

GO MD USA LLC employs a cloud-native 5G network setup, distinguishing itself from

legacy systems by leveraging cloud infrastructure instead of dedicated single servers. This shift enables virtualization, allowing server resources to expand in real-time and eliminating the vulnerability of a single point of failure. By distributing core software across multiple resources rather than being confined to a single server, GO MD USA LLC ensures enhanced scalability and reliability in telecommunications. This approach optimizes resource usage and supports seamless scaling to meet varying demands, ensuring robust and uninterrupted 5G service delivery across diverse operational requirements.

J. GO MD USA Is Financially and Technically Capable

As part of the *2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, the FCC amended its rules to require a carrier seeking designation as a Lifeline-only ETC to demonstrate that it is financially and technically capable of providing the supported Lifeline service in compliance with all of the low-income program rules.[17] GO MD USA satisfies these criteria.

GO MD USA is financially stable and capable of honoring its service obligations to customers, as shown in Exhibit 5, as well as meeting its federal and state regulatory obligations. The Company will not rely exclusively on revenues from the provision of Lifeline services for its operating revenues. The Company also has access to additional capital resources from its parent and affiliate companies. The Company's financial resources position the Company to expand its operations to serve currently unserved/underserved eligible low-income Georgia consumers and increase competition.

In addition, the proposed Lifeline offerings will be overseen by a team of personnel with substantial industry experience with the requirements of the federal Lifeline program and marketing and serving lower-income consumers.

K. Terms and Conditions of Proposed Lifeline Offering

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[17] *See 2012 Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 387; *see also* 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(4).

The Company has the ability to provide all services supported by the universal service program, as detailed in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a), throughout Georgia. The Company further affirms that its Lifeline-supported voice services will meet or exceed the minimum service standards set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.408, including as such standards are updated going forward. GO MD USA Mobile-branded Lifeline-supported broadband services will also meet the minimum service standards set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.408 for mobile broadband internet access services, including for service speed and data usage allowance, as such standards are updated going forward. To the extent GO MD USA provides devices for use with Lifeline- supported broadband service, such devices will meet the equipment requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.408(f), and GO MD USA will not impose an additional or separate tethering charge for mobile data usage below the minimum standard.

GO MD USA's terms and conditions are stated and available on its website at GO MD USA LLC Terms and Conditions. Customers will be directed to these terms and conditions through online marketing efforts.

Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a summary table of the Company's proposed Lifeline service offerings, showing that Lifeline customers can receive 1,000 voice minutes, 1,000 text messages, and 4.5 gigabytes (GB) of data per month at a net cost of $0.00 after application of Lifeline support. Customers will also be able to purchase additional minutes or data as needed. GO MD USA LLC agrees to offer additional minutes at a cost not to exceed $0.05 per minute for Lifeline customers. GO MD USA LLC does not include roaming in its service offerings and will ensure no charges are applied for roaming.

In addition to wholly-supported or discounted wireless services, prepaid Lifeline customers will be able to receive an upgraded handset at an additional charge or SIM card offer, as well as access to voice mail, caller I.D., call forwarding, 3-way calling, and call waiting features at no

additional charge. Customers may use their minutes to place domestic long-distance calls at no additional charge, and calls to the Company's customer service are free with no deduction of available minutes. Calls to 911 emergency services are always free, regardless of service activation or availability of minutes.

L. GO MD USA Mobile's Offerings Will Comply with Lifeline Certification and Annual Re-certification Requirements

Customers interested in obtaining information on the Lifeline program will be directed to a toll-free telephone number and to the Company's website, which will contain information regarding the Company's Lifeline service plans, including a description of the Lifeline program and eligibility criteria. GO MD USA will use multiple outreach methods including but not limited to nonprofit partnerships, phone, online, and in person enrollments through Lifeline events. Section 54.410 of the FCC rules require ETCs to certify and verify a Lifeline customer's initial and continued eligibility. GO MD USA will rely on the National Verifier and the National Lifeline Accountability Database ("NLAD"), both administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"), to determine an applicant's eligibility for Lifeline service and ACP services when they return. GO MD USA will require all GO MD USA Mobile's Lifeline applicants to complete the standard Lifeline and ACP application forms in the National Verifier environment. The standard Lifeline and ACP application complies with the disclosure, certification, and information collection requirements in 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(d).[18] For applicants verified as being eligible by USAC's National Verifier and NLAD, GO MD USA will complete enrollment by transmitting the required information into NLAD as required by Section 54.404(b)(6) of the FCC's rules. In addition, at the time of enrollment, the Company will notify

[18] *FCC Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance on Universal Forms for the Lifeline Program*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, "Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance on Universal Forms for the Lifeline Program," DA 18-161 (rel. Feb. 20, 2018). The standard application/certification forms are available on USAC's website (*see* USAC, Lifeline Forms, http://www.usac.org/li/tools/forms/default.aspx).

the applicant that the prepaid service must be personally activated by the subscriber and the subscriber must use their service every thirty (30) days in order to maintain their Lifeline benefit and ACP benefits.

GO MD USA will also comply with Sections 54.410(f) of the FCC's rules governing annual subscriber re-certification of eligibility and will coordinate with USAC's National Verifier and NLAD systems to manage additional de-enrollments related to USAC-administered benefit transfers and failure to re-certify.

M. Prevention of Waste, Fraud and Abuse[19]

The Company recognizes the importance of safeguarding the Universal Service Fund ("USF") and has implemented measures and procedures to prevent duplicate Lifeline and ACP benefits being awarded to the same household. GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline offerings will comply with the requirements of the NLAD and section 54.404 of the FCC's rules. As part of the application process, the National Verifier queries the NLAD for every enrollment to determine whether a prospective subscriber is currently receiving a Lifeline service or ACP Service from GO MD USA or any other ETC, and whether anyone else living at the prospective subscriber's residential address is currently receiving Lifeline service or ACP services.

Consistent with federal regulations, the Company will not seek USF reimbursement for new subscribers until they have activated the service, either by initiation and/or actual use of the service and will de-enroll any subscriber that has not used the Company's Lifeline service or ACP services as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.407(c)(2). An account will be considered active if the authorized subscriber establishes usage, as "usage" is defined by 47 C.F.R. § 54.407(c)(2), during the specified timeframe, currently a period of thirty (30) days, or during the notice period set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(e)(3), currently a period of fifteen (15) days. In accordance with

[19] 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.405(e), 54.410(f).

47 C.F.R.§ 54.405(e)(3), GO MD USA will provide the subscriber advance notice when a subscriber's failure to use the Lifeline service or ACP services within the notice period will result in service termination for non-usage. Customers that have been deactivated may participate in the Company's Lifeline service or ACP services in the future by reapplying and re-establishing eligibility.

To further protect the integrity of the USF, GO MD USA contracts with third party vendors to backstop USAC's own processes and procedures. First, the Company will use telgoo5.com software to process Lifeline applications and ACP applications. Among other things, Emerios uses third-party verification sources (currently the LexisNexis LEXID service) to validate a prospective customer's identity. Emerios also validates the Company's subsidy data to prevent duplicate subsidies. In addition, the Company has established a back-office real time review ("RTR") process to be completed before a Lifeline application is passed to the National Verifier to qualify a customer. This process involves specially trained operations analysts (who have no financial stake in whether an application is successful) individually confirming the information entered into the application and supporting documentation to, among other things, confirm the identities of the sales agent and the customer by reviewing pictures of them in real time during the application process and review the customer's identification and address for anomalies. GO MD USA has hired experienced staff and a third-party company to provide RTR for our Lifeline enrollments. This third-party company has substantial experience running RTR for other Lifeline providers.

N. Commission's Lifeline Requirements

GO MD USA will comply with the Commission's rules and orders that are applicable to wireless ETCs. Specifically, GO MD USA will meet the reporting requirements and consumer safeguards set forth in the Commission Lifeline Requirements. As such, within 30 days of

designation as an ETC and prior to offering Lifeline service in Georgia, GO MD USA will submit the following information to the UTC: (1) Lifeline application form; (2) advertising and marketing materials that GO MD USA plans to use in Georgia; (3) rates, terms, and conditions of its Lifeline service offerings in Georgia; (4) contact information for the Company's customer service designee; and (5) the Company's proposed method and timing of annual recertifications and a sample recertification notice.[20] GO MD USA will comply with the Commission Lifeline Requirements regarding consumer safeguards, including working with the Commission staff to resolve Lifeline subscriber disputes, providing 60 days' notice to subscribers and the Commission of a planned discontinuance of Lifeline service, and working with the Commission to facilitate a smooth transition of subscribers to an alternative ETC in the event of a discontinuance of service. The Commission Lifeline Requirements direct wireless ETCs to include the Commission's Consumer Division contact information on the ETC's website, marketing materials, applications, and terms and conditions and to advise that the Consumer Division is available to handle Lifeline complaints on the ETC's website and in the terms and conditions. GO MD USA will comply with these requirements to the extent that they are in effect and not waived by the Commission.

GO MD USA also will submit the reports identified in the Commission Lifeline Requirements that are due annually by January 31 (FCC Form 555, report on marketing and promotional activities, public safety answering point self-certification, and certification that all 911 fees have been paid) and by July 1 (FCC Form 481, Lifeline terms and conditions, and complaints per 1,000 subscribers). The Company will submit 30-day notices of the events specified in the Commission Lifeline Requirements, will provide copies of final USAC audit

[20] The annual recertification process is administered by the National Verifier. GO MD USA will advise customers that they may need to recertify their eligibility annually if the National Verifier does not automatically do so, in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.410(f).

reports, and provide 5-business day prior notice of material changes to rates, terms of conditions of Lifeline service.

V. GO MD USA MEETS THE COMMISSION'S REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ETC

A. GO MD USA Meets Georgia's Designation Requirements.

An application for ETC designation in Georgia also must meet Georgia statutory and regulatory requirements.[21] These requirements include compliance to Georgia Compiled Rules 21 See Ga. Code § 46-2-30 (2021). 16 and Regulations Rule 515-12-1-.35 and the Commission's orders and reporting requirements related to ETCs.

B. GO MD USA Will Comply with Georgia Compiled Rules and Regulations

Rule 515-12-1-.35 of the Georgia Administrative Code sets forth the minimum requirements for ETCs that seek Lifeline support.22 Rule 515-12-1-.35(1)-(9) provides the following:

> 1) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier must meet the requirements set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and (B) and all rules and regulations duly promulgated by the [FCC] set forth in 47 C.F.R. part 54, Subpart C (Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support), Subpart D (Universal Service Support for High Cost Areas), or Subpart E (Universal Service Support for Low Income Consumers), except to the extent the FCC has granted a waiver of its rules and regulations.
>
> 2) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier shall satisfactorily resolve within a reasonable time period any and all complaints filed against it with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit.

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[21] See Ga. Code § 46-2-30 (2021)

3) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier shall advertise the availability of Lifeline service on its internet website.

4) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier shall not charge usage (i.e., decrement minutes) or charge fees of any kind for calls to customer service.

5) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier shall file the number of Lifeline subscribers that the carrier serves in the State of Georgia as of June 30th and December 31st of each year, broken down by eligibility criterion. The report shall be filed 15 days from the close of the period.

6) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier that provides no-cost service after application of the Lifeline discount shall file with the Commission quarterly reports, due no later than 15 days from the close of each quarter, that report the number of customers who have been deactivated pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(e)(3), the number of customers who did not pass annual verification, and the number of customers who were voluntarily deactivated.

7) Lifeline materials including advertisements, application forms, and verification forms must include the following language: “Unresolved complaints concerning Lifeline service can be directed to the Georgia Public Service Commission’s Consumer Affairs Unit at 404) 651-8600 and toll free in GA is 800) 869-1123.”

8) Any proposed increases in an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier’s least cost service rate available to Lifeline customers, any increase in connection charges, or the addition of any proposed surcharges, other than those specifically provided for in State or Federal law, shall require 30 days written notice to the Commission.

9) An Eligible Telecommunications Carrier shall include its lowest cost service offering in all Lifeline advertisements

GO MD USA will comply with each of the requirements of Rule 515-12-1-.35 applicable to wireless ETC services. GO MD USA will resolve, within a reasonable period of time, any and all complaints filed against it with the Commission's Consumer Affairs unit. GO MD USA also will advertise the availability of Lifeline service on its internet website and its public advertisements. GO MD USA offerings will include unlimited local and interstate calling; therefore, no fees will be charged for calls to customer service. Lifeline service will be offered as required by the FCC's and the Commission's rules at all locations where it has been awarded support. GO MD USA will offer Lifeline service as required by the FCC's and Commission's rules at all locations where it has been awarded support and submit the required filings. GO MD USA will include the required language in its Lifeline materials and will comply with the Commission's rules. GO MD USA will offer Lifeline service as required by the FCC's and Commission's rules at all locations where it has been awarded support. GO MD USA will include its lowest cost service offering in all Lifeline advertisement

C. GO MD USA Will Comply with the Commission's Certification Requirement

The Commission has adopted the certification requirements of the FCC as stated in Rule 515-12-1-.35(10). Rule 515-12-1-.35(10) provides the following:

10) Under 47 C.F.R. § 54.314(a), the Commission submits to the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") and the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") an annual certification prior to October 1, of each year. The annual certification includes those carriers that have certified to the Commission that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers within Georgia was used in the preceding calendar year and will be used in the coming calendar year only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which support is intended. In order to be included in the annual certification that the Commission submits to USAC and the FCC for a given

year, a carrier shall file its certification with the Commission on or before August 1, of that year.

GO MD USA commits to complying with the ETC requirements for certification and will submit an annual certification on or before August 1 of each year to the Commission.

In reviewing staff comments on previous petitions GO MD USA has noted certain concerns communicated by the staff to applicants. For example, with regard to **Advertisements,**

> GO MD USA LLC will include the lowest cost service offering and the required language about unresolved complaints in all Lifeline advertisements. We will ensure compliance with Commission Rule 515-12-1-.35, which mandates that all Lifeline advertisements must include (a) the lowest cost service offering and (b) the following language: "Unresolved complaints concerning Lifeline service can be directed to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at (404) 651-8600 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 869-1123."
>
> **Advertisement Text:** "GO MD USA offers affordable Lifeline services with our lowest cost service plan available, which includes 1000 minutes and 5 GB of data for $9.25. Unresolved complaints concerning Lifeline service can be directed to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at (404) 651-8600 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 869-1123. Additional top-ups are available for $10 to refill your plan during the month if you run out of minutes or data. For more details on our terms and conditions, visit GO MD USA LLC Terms and Conditions.

Similarly, to ensure clarity in customer communication and advertising, GO MD USA LLC will not use any trade name other than "GO MD USA." We have registered the trade name with the relevant authorities.

VI. DESIGNATING GO MD USA AS AN ETC WOULD PROMOTE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The Commission will advance the public interest by designating the Company as an ETC so that it can offer the GO MD USA Mobile-branded Lifeline services. Americans increasingly

need greater access to voice and broadband services, and low-income Georgia consumers in particular, are suffering from the lack of affordable and available access. The Company is currently helping to close the gap by seeking approval to providing service under the ACP and stands ready to expand consumer choice and continue offering discounted services as a Lifeline ETC to customers who have come to rely on these benefits. In addition, because GO MD USA is planning to deploy a new facilities-based wireless 5G network throughout the country over the next several years, designating GO MD USA as an ETC will improve its ability to apply for state broadband funding grants, should ETC designation be required, to increase service in underserved and unserved areas.

A. Advantages of GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline Plans and ACP Plans

Authorizing the Company as a Lifeline ETC in the State of Georgia will enable the Company to provide eligible low-income consumers with access to high quality mobile voice, text, and data services. This will increase those consumers' choices in service providers and service options and make essential communications services more affordable and accessible to these consumers. Mobile services are overwhelmingly preferred by Lifeline-eligible consumers who may be able to afford only a single connection, may frequently change residences or places of employment, and may need the ability to communicate with prospective employers. Some of these individuals may be experiencing homelessness and rely upon Lifeline service as their single reliable source of connectivity. Lifeline services also ensure that consumers can always contact 911 emergency services should the need arise. The availability of a no-charge Lifeline service that includes voice minutes, texts, and data is an invaluable resource for consumers in these circumstances.

GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline service plans provide meaningful options for low-income consumers because they offer low-cost, reliable alternatives to traditional rate plans. Among the

GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline offerings is a plan with 1,000 voice minutes, 1,000 texts, and 4.5 GB of data available to all qualifying low-income Georgia consumers for no cost, and a plan with unlimited voice minutes, unlimited texts and 11 GB of data available to residents of Tribal lands for no cost. Qualified Georgia consumers will have the choice to apply their Lifeline discount to existing GO MD USA Mobile plans.

Further, granting GO MD USA LLC's application will provide Georgia customers whose ACP coverage has ended because of federal budget issues to have immediate internet access. GO MD USA has more than 1000 current internet clients in Georgia whose services are suspended due to the lapse of the ACP program. A large majority of them have inquired and are qualified for Lifeline service. Upon being granted ETC status, we will be able to immediately contact these clients and inform them that they can reapply through the Lifeline program. If accepted, they will be able to reactivate their service at a Lifeline plan level right away. [22]

In addition, GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline plans alleviate customer concerns regarding deposits, hidden costs, varying monthly charges, and long-term contract issues. GO MD USA Mobile prepaid plans allow customers to subscribe to voice, text, and data services without the hurdle of a credit check or the commitment of a contract.

B. Benefits of Competitive Choice

Designating the Company as an ETC also meets the FCC's stated goals for promoting competition and increasing customer choice. The FCC has recognized that in non-rural areas, designation of multiple ETCs is "consistent per se with the public interest."[23] In rural and high-cost areas, the FCC determined that "designation of competitive ETCs promotes competition and

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[22]We have noted that in relation to other applications for Lifeline Service Designation, the staff has requeste this type of information.

[23] *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Bell Atlantic Mobile, Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, Memorandum, Opinion and Order, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 00-2895, ¶ 14 (rel. Dec. 26, 2000).

benefits consumers … by increasing customer choice, innovative services, and new technologies."[24] In the Lifeline context, the entry of additional providers increases competitive choice for lower-income customers who may not be the focus of wireless carriers' marketing efforts. Launching GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline options in Georgia will add affordable, innovative mobile wireless choices to the marketplace, and could spur other ETCs to expand and improve their own Lifeline service offerings. Granting ETC designation to GO MD USA will promote competition for the benefit of consumers and will have desirable effects upon the Georgia market for Lifeline services by making these services more available and accessible, thereby supporting the goals of universal service.

VII. ANTI-DRUG ABUSE CERTIFICATION

In accordance with section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, GO MD USA certifies that no party to the Petition is subject to denial of federal benefits, including FCC benefits.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, designation of GO MD USA as an ETC in the State of Georgia accords with the requirements of Section 214(e)(2) of the Act and is in the public interest.

WHEREFORE, GO MD USA respectfully requests that the Commission designate GO MD USA as an ETC in the State of Georgia for the purpose of participating in the Lifeline program.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Schirmer
General Counsel
Go MD USA LLC

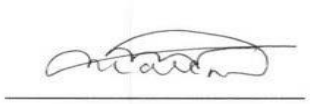
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[24] *See Western Wireless Corporation Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Wyoming,* Memorandum Opinion and Order, CC Docket No. 96-45, DA 00-2896, ¶ 17 (rel. Dec. 26, 2000).

EXHIBIT 1: VERIFICATION

I, Apollo Arcallana, Manager of GO MD USA Mobile for GO MD USA LLC, have reviewed and am familiar with the foregoing Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Georgia. I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of Georgia that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed on the __th day of July, 2024 at Memphis, Tennessee.



Apollo Arcallana

EXHIBIT 2: PROPOSED LIFELINE PLANS

Subsidy Amount ($)	Subsidy Type	GO MD USA Mobile Lifeline Plan Offering
9.25	Lifeline (Federal)	1,000 minutes of talk/voice, 1,000 text, and 4.5 GB of data
34.25	Lifeline (Federal and Tribal)	Unlimited talk & text, 11 GB of data

EXHIBIT 3: GEORGIA COVERAGE AREA ZIP CODES

30004	30071	30134
30005	30072	30135
30008	30075	30137
30009	30076	30139
30011	30078	30141
30012	30079	30143
30013	30080	30144
30014	30082	30145
30016	30083	30147
30017	30084	30148
30019	30087	30149
30021	30088	30152
30022	30092	30153
30024	30093	30157
30025	30094	30161
30028	30096	30165
30030	30097	30168
30032	30101	30170
30033	30102	30171
30034	30103	30173
30035	30104	30175
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EXHIBIT 4: SAMPLE ADVERTISEMENT



AD Sample

Georgia-specific Advertisements

Georgia-specific Advertisements:

Please see Exhibit B for the Company's Georgia-specific advertising for Lifeline customers. All advertisements include the lowest cost service offering and the required language about unresolved complaints.

Exhibit 4B: Sample Advertisement

Exhibit 4B: Sample Advertisement

Affordable Lifeline Services from GO MD USA Mobile

Are you eligible for Lifeline services? GO MD USA Mobile offers a reliable and affordable Lifeline service plan designed to meet your communication needs.

Our Lifeline Plan Includes:

- 1000 Voice Minutes
- 1000 Text Messages
- 4.5 GB of Data

All at a net cost of $0.00 after applying the Lifeline support!

Why Choose GO MD USA Mobile?

- **No Hidden Costs:** Transparent pricing with no unexpected fees.
- **Reliable Network:** Service provided through the trusted networks of AT&T and T-Mobile.
- **Customer Support:** Our dedicated team is here to help you with any questions or issues.

Unresolved Complaints? Unresolved complaints concerning Lifeline service can be directed to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit at (404) 651-8600 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 869-1123.

Stay Connected with GO MD USA Mobile! Visit our website at www.gomdusa.net for more details on our terms and conditions, and to check your eligibility and apply for Lifeline services.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay connected with loved ones, access essential services, and more. Apply today!

You can now copy and paste these updated sections into your document. If you need further assistance, please let me know!

EXHIBIT 5: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

G GO MD USA LLC has secured funding commitments from multiple partners, ensuring sufficient financial support for its business plans. Moreover, the company does not heavily rely on ACP or Lifeline revenue, as these income streams constitute only a minor portion of its operations. Our Q1 2024 financial statement will be confidentially filed with this petition.

EXHIBIT 6

BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY COMPANY PERSONNEL

Apollo Arcallana, CFO:

With a background in accounting, Apollo Arcallana has demonstrated his versatility by branching into the insurance industry six years ago. As a licensed professional in all 50 states for life, health, property, and casualty insurance, Apollo brings a wealth of expertise to his role as CFO of GO MD USA LLC. He skillfully manages the company's day-to-day financial operations and ensures that all financial responsibilities are met with the utmost attention to detail.

Arfie Dajas, VP of Technology:

As a developer with over 15 years of telecom experience in software, hardware, VOIP soft switches, OSS BSS platforms, and 20 years of software development experience in various frameworks, Arfie Dajas is a technology leader with a proven track record of success. He is responsible for managing both internal technology and third-party relationships and integrations at GO MD USA LLC. Arfie's instrumental role in developing GO MD USA LLC's technology, as well as its integrations with Telgoo5, a core OSS BSS platform used by many ETCs to enroll clients in Lifeline and ACP services, has been critical to the company's success. He oversees all technical and non-technical aspects of MVNO operations and network integrations with AT&T and T-Mobile as GO MD USA LLC's underlying network providers.

AJ Sosa, Vice President of Operations:

AJ Sosa serves as the Vice President of Operations at GO MD USA, bringing a wealth of experience and a robust educational background to the role. AJ holds a degree in Business Administration from Palm Beach State College and is a licensed insurance professional. His comprehensive expertise spans building and guiding high-performing teams across sales, customer service, and support departments.

In his capacity at GO MD USA, AJ oversees critical functions including the fulfillment and device departments, as well as the customer service and tech support teams. His role is pivotal to the seamless operation of GO MD USA, ensuring that the company's services are delivered efficiently and effectively to meet customer needs. AJ’s strategic oversight and operational leadership have been instrumental in the company's success and growth over the years.

AJ has been a dedicated member of the GO MD USA team for several years, where he has consistently demonstrated his ability to manage complex operations and drive organizational excellence. His commitment to enhancing operational processes and improving customer satisfaction underscores his value as an integral part of the company’s leadership team. AJ's proactive approach and strategic vision continue to contribute significantly to the overall success and sustainability of GO MD USA