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**NEW LIFELINE RULES BECOME EFFECTIVE
ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

The Wireline Competition Bureau (“Bureau”) has announced that the rules set forth in the [2015 Lifeline Reform Order](#), released on June 22, 2015, have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”), and that the announcement of the OMB approval of the rules will be sent to the Federal Register on February 4, 2016. Since the 2015 Lifeline Reform Order stated that adopted rules contained in the Order take effect upon announcement in the Federal Register of OMB approval, the rules thus will become effective on or after February 4, 2016.

You will recall that the 2015 Lifeline Reform Order set forth several rule changes designed to strengthen the document retention requirements, ensure that only ETCs directly serving low-income customers receive reimbursement under the Lifeline program, and require ETCs to use a uniform snapshot date to request reimbursement from USAC for the provision of Lifeline support. A full list describing the Lifeline rules that will become effective on or after February 4, 2016, is available at: http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0115/DA-16-56A1.pdf.

Two Lifeline rule changes that you should take particular care to review are (1) the Initial Enrollment Eligibility Documentation Retention rule which requires ETCs to retain initial eligibility supporting documentation (including all documents from an administrator if your state has one) for as long as the subscriber receives the Lifeline services from the ETC but not less than three calendar years; and (2) the Snapshot rule which requires ETCs to use the first day of each month as the Lifeline subscriber snapshot date for FCC Form 497 reporting purposes.

Please contact your GVNW Consultant or Courtney Spears (830.895.7221, cspears@gvnw.com) or David Cohen (202.236.3947, dcohen@gvnw.com) with any questions or concerns you may have about the new rules for the Lifeline program.