# Proposed Changes to the California LifeLine Annual Renewal Process

Kim Lehrman | Nov. 30, 2018



## **California LifeLine – Existing Annual Renewal Process**

#### **Current Renewal Process:**

- The most recent renewal rates for California LifeLine wireless consumers stands at 33%
  - The national average outside of California is 80%, with some ETCs achieving over 90% recertification success
- Reliance on mailed communications (the "pink envelope" process) is inefficient and ineffective due to the often transient consumer base receiving wireless LifeLine service
  - The deliverability of mail to the LifeLine wireless consumer is <60% whereas a wireline consumer's service delivery address is his/her billing address
- Carriers lack insight into a consumer's anniversary window and how much time is left prior to the customer's renewal date
  - The lack of this information leads to a break in the continuity of service or causes the consumer to be denied the LifeLine benefit



#### **California LifeLine – Existing Annual Renewal Timeline**



renewal timeline ver. 06/18/2015



# **Front End Renewal Process:**

- Develop access to qualifying program databases to automatically renew the annual LifeLine benefit for eligible consumers
- Require proof of eligibility at every benefit transfer
  - Require ETCs to provide this proof to the Third Party Administrator (TPA)/Maximus
  - Re-confirms consumer eligibility and allows for the anniversary date to be reset by one year
  - Allows the existing enrollment process to double as the annual renewal process



#### **Back End Renewal Process:**

- Permit LifeLine consumers to complete the annual renewal process by verifying PII (Personally Identifiable Information) already on file with the TPA
  - For the purpose of annual renewal, the PII will be limited to full legal name, date of birth, last 4 of SSN and LifeLine phone number
- Allow consumers to renew online or via IVR using PII without the need for a PIN mailed in the pink envelope
- Provide ETCs with their consumers' PINs so that ETCs can include them in their texts to consumers
- Allow consumers to complete their annual renewal at any time during the renewal window prior to their anniversary date
  - The LifeLine benefit anniversary date will always be one year from the date of the consumer's most recent enrollment (whether new enrollment or benefit transfer)
  - Eliminates "black-out dates"



### **Annual Renewal Process Existing Costs**

- Under the existing process, costs are estimated to be \$4.85M for the 1.4M consumers currently participating in California LifeLine
  - Cost of Mailings = <u>\$2.8M</u>
    - (Initial Mailing [1.4M consumers x \$1 per] = \$1.4M) + (Final Mailing [1.4M consumers x \$1 per] = \$1.4M) = \$2.8M
  - Cost of Processing Successful Renewals = <u>\$624K</u>
    - (USMail [256K consumers @ \$2.21 per] = \$566K) + (Web/IVR/WES [194K consumers @ \$.30 per] = \$58K) = \$624K
  - Manual Re-enrollment Review = <u>\$712K</u>
    - 712K consumers x \$1 per = \$712K
  - Welcome Letter = <u>\$712K</u>
    - 712K consumers x \$1 per = \$712K



# Annual Renewal Process Revisions Proposed Cost Savings = \$2.77M

- Under the proposed process, annual renewal costs are estimated to be \$2.1M
  - Manual Re-enrollment Review for consumers who benefit transfer = <u>\$1.12M</u>
    - 1.12M consumers x \$1 per = \$1.12M
  - Cost of Mailings = <u>\$560K</u>
    - (Initial Mailing [280K consumers x \$1 per] = \$280K) + (Final Mailing [280K consumers x \$1 per] = \$280K) = \$560K
  - Cost of Processing Successful Renewals = <u>\$125K</u>
    - (US Mail [51K consumers @ \$2.21 per] = \$113K) + (Web/IVR/WES [39K consumers @ \$.30 per] = \$12K) = \$125K
  - Manual Re-enrollment Review for consumers who fail to renew = <u>\$142K</u>
    - 142K consumers x \$1 per = \$142K
  - Welcome Letter = **<u>\$142K</u>** 
    - 142K consumers x \$1 per = \$142K



## Summary

These proposed changes to the Annual Renewal Process will:

- Make the process More <u>Consumer-Friendly</u>
- Improve Wireless Renewal Rates
- Result in <u>Cost-Savings</u> for the LifeLine Fund and ratepayers
- Streamline the process making it <u>Easier</u> and <u>More Efficient</u> for the TPA and ETCs to perform this requirement

