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DOCKET No. <u>385</u>44

APPLICATION OF TEXAS HEARING) PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
SERVICES CORPORATION D/B/A)
TEXAS HEARING AND TELEPHONE)
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER)
AND AS AN ELIGIBLE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER	OF TEXAS

APPLICATION OF TEXAS HEARING SERVICES CORPORATION D/B/A TEXAS HEARING AND TELEPHONE. FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER AND AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER

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APPLICATION OF TEXAS HEARING SERVICES CORPORATION D/B/A TEXAS HEARING AND TELEPHONE FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER AND AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER

Texas Hearing Services Corporation d/b/a Texas Hearing and Telephone ("Texas Hearing" or "Applicant") submits this application pursuant to P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.417 and P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.418 for designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Provider ("ETP") and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") within all exchanges and study areas served by AT&T Texas and Verizon. As part of this application, Texas Hearing requests a waiver of P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.417(c)(1)(A) to allow the simultaneous issuance of such certifications.

I. INTRODUCTION AND FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Texas Hearing holds SPCOA Certificate No. 60858, which was granted (as amended) on May 12, 2010 in Docket 38010. Texas Hearing now files this application demonstrating that it is eligible for ETP and ETC certification and that granting such certification is in the public interest.

II. REQUESTED ETC/ETP DESIGNATED AREA

Texas Hearing requests that it be certified as an ETC/ETP within 264 AT&T Texas wire centers and their associated exchanges and study areas and within 79 Verizon wire centers and their associated exchanges and study areas. A list of each of the wire centers in the designated service area is appended to this application as Attachment A. The wire centers that are eligible

for ETP treatment under the Texas High Cost Universal Service Plan (THCUSP) are denoted as such.

III. DEMONSTRATION OF ELIGIBILITY

A. ETC Status

Texas Hearing meets all of the requirements for eligibility as an ETC in the designated service area.

- (i) Texas Hearing is a "common carrier," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(10).
- (ii) In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(b), Texas Hearing will offer throughout the designated service area, through the use of its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services, all of the services that are designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a) for support by federal universal service support mechanisms under 47 U.S.C. § 254(c). These services will be offered through Texas Hearing's standard terms and conditions and where applicable its Lifeline and Link-Up tariff, which is appended to this application as Attachment B. Texas Hearing's services will include:
 - (1) voice grade access to the public switched telephone network;
 - (2) local usage;
 - (3) tone dialing;
 - (4) single-party service;
 - (5) access to emergency services, including 911 or enhanced 911;
 - (6) access to operator services;
 - (7) access to interexchange services;
 - (8) access to directory assistance; and
 - (9) toll limitation as defined by 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(d) for qualifying low-income customers.
- (iii) Texas Hearing will offer the foregoing services to all customers within the designated service area upon designation and after all necessary contractual and physical

In order to provide its service, Texas Hearing will rely, in part, on unbundled network elements and some resale of services furnished by AT&T Texas and/or Verizon. Texas Hearing has an interconnection agreement with AT&T and is working on securing one with Verizon.

arrangements are in place. In furtherance of that objective, Texas Hearing will advertise the services, in both English and Spanish, in all directories that are distributed to its customers, will inform customers orally when they request or initiate service, or change service locations or providers, and advertise the services in annual bill inserts and using media of general distribution.²

(iv) Texas Hearing will offer Lifeline and Link Up support to qualifying low-income customers within the designated service area and will not collect deposits from any such customers who select toll blocking. (See the Lifeline and Link-Up provisions of Texas Hearing's tariff in Attachment B.)

B. ETP Status

Texas Hearing meets all of the requirements for eligibility as an ETP in the designated service area.

- (i) Texas Hearing is a "telecommunications provider" and offers local exchange and other telecommunications services within the designated service area pursuant to SPCOA Certificate No. 60858.
- (ii) Texas Hearing, through the instant application, has applied for certification as an ETC in the designated service area.
- (iii) Texas Hearing will offer throughout the designated service area all of the services that are listed in P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.403(d)(1). These services include:
 - (1) flat rate, single party residential and business local exchange telephone service, including primary directory listings;
 - (2) tone dialing service;
 - (3) access to operator services;
 - (4) access to directory assistance;

Texas Hearing will place the advertisements appended to this application as Exhibit C for publication in newspapers of general circulation throughout the designated area, and commits to publish similar advertisements at least twice a year in those same newspapers.

- (5) access to 911 service when provided by a local authority;
- (6) telecommunications relay service;
- (7) ability to report service problems seven days a week;
- (8) availability of an annual local directory;
- (9) access to toll services; and
- (10) Lifeline and Link-Up services.³
- (iv) Texas Hearing will offer the foregoing services to all customers within the designated service area at a rate that does not exceed 150% of the rate charged by the incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") serving the same area, and Texas Hearing will provide such services through the use of its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services.
- (v) Texas Hearing will provide continuous service that meets the quality of service benchmarks in P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.52 to 26.54 and will offer Lifeline and Link-Up services in compliance with P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.412 to qualified low-income customers.
- (vi) Texas Hearing will offer the foregoing services to all customers within the designated service area. In furtherance of that objective, Texas Hearing will advertise the services, in both English and Spanish, in all directories that are distributed to its customers, will inform customers orally when they request or initiate service, or change service locations or providers, and advertise the services in annual bill inserts and using media of general distribution.

C. The Public Interest

The FCC has held that ETC applications for areas served by AT&T Texas and Verizon are presumptively in the public interest. Approval as an ETP will also be in the public interest because Texas Hearing's services will provide additional competitive choices for end users, including the ability to obtain additional features and functions beyond only the "Supported

See the Lifeline and Link-Up provisions of Texas Hearing's tariff, which are appended to this application.

Services" as part of the basic offering and without additional charge. The incumbent does not offer these additional services, or they are available from the incumbent only for an additional charge.

IV. REQUESTED EFFECTIVE DATE

Texas Hearing requests that its designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Provider ("ETP") and Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") be made effective no later than thirty days after its application herein is approved.

V. FORM OF NOTICE

Texas Hearing has appended as Attachment D to this application a form of notice for publication in the Texas Register.

VI. REQUEST FOR WAIVER

Texas Hearing requests a waiver of P.U.C. Subst. R. 26.417(c)(1)(A) to allow the simultaneous issuance of the ETC and ETP certifications requested herein.

VII. SERVICE ON OPUC

The Office of Public Utility Counsel is being served with a contemporaneous copy of this application by regular mail.

Respectfully submitted, August 10, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

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Counsel for Texas Hearing Services Corporation d/b/a Texas Hearing and Telephone

ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF SERVING WIRE CENTERS FOR ETC AND ETP DESIGNATION

AT&T Texas Wire Centers (THCUSP-eligible wire centers are italicized)

AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count	AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count
			Houston		
Adamsville	ADVLTXAVRS0	1	Suburban	HSTNTXADCG0	133
			Houston		
Alice	ALICTXALDS0	2	Suburban	HSTNTXADDS0	134
			Houston		
Angleton	AGTNTXDARS0	3	Suburban	HSTNTXAIDS0	135
			Houston		
Angleton	AGTNTXTIDS0	4	Suburban	HSTNTXALDS0	136
			Houston		
Apollo	HSTNTXAPDS0	5	Suburban	HSTNTXBUDS0	137
			Houston		100
Arcola	ARCLTXXADS0	6	Suburban	HSTNTXBWDS0	138
_		_	Houston		100
Asherton	ASTNTXASRS0	7	Suburban	HSTNTXEERS0	139
			Houston		1.40
Austin	AUSTTXBCRS0	8	Suburban	HSTNTXEHDS0	140
	A * (0	Houston	HOTELTON TO THE POPULATION OF	1./1
Austin	AUSTTXBERS0	9	Suburban	HSTNTXPEDS1	141
A	A LIGHTSZOED GO	10	Houston	HOTNITVIII CCO	142
Austin	AUSTTXCFRS0	10	Suburban	HSTNTXWLCG0	142
Austin	AUSTTXCRRS0	11	Huntsville		
A 4.5	A TICTETY CONTOCO	10	Karnes City-	KRCYTXFCRS0	144
Austin	AUSTTXCVDS0	12	Falls City	KKC I IAFCKSU	144
A	AUSTTXCVRS1	13	Karnes City- Falls City	KRCYTXKCRS0	145
Austin Austin	AUSTTXEVDS0	14	Kemah	BCLFTXXADS0	146
Austin	AUSTTXEVDS0 AUSTTXEVRS2	15	Kenedy	KNDYTXKNRS0	147
Austin	AUSTTXFADS0	16	Kingsville	KGVLTXKVDS0	148
Austin	AUSTTXFARS1	17	La Porte	HSTNTXLPDS0	149
Austin	AUSTTXFIDS0	18	La Pryor	LAPRTXLPRS0	150
Austin	AUSTTXGRDS5	19	Lacoste	LCSTTXLCRS0	151
Austin	AUSTTXGRDS3	20	Lampasas	LMPSTXLSDS0	152
Ausuli	MODIACINO	20	Langham		102
Austin	AUSTTXHIDS0	21	Creek	HSTNTXLADS0	153
Austin	AUSTTXHIDS0	22	Laredo	LARDTXDGRS0	154
Austin	AUSTTXHODS0	23	Laredo	LARDTXLADS0	155
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AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count	AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count
Austin	AUSTTXJODS0	24	Leander	AUSTTXLEDS0	156
Austin	AUSTTXLTRS0	25	Liberty	LBRTTXLBDS0	157
Austin	AUSTTXLWRS0	26	Liberty Hill	LBHLTXLHRS0	158
Austin	AUSTTXMADS0	27	Lockhart	LCKHTXLKDS1	159
Austin	AUSTTXMCDS0	28	Los Fresnos	LSFRTXLFRS0	160
Austin	AUSTTXMCRS1	29	Luling	LLNGTXLURS0	161
Austin	AUSTTXMFRS0	30	Lytle	LYTLTXLYRS0	162
Austin	AUSTTXPFDS0	31	Madisonville	MDVITXMDRS0	163
Austin	AUSTTXRRDS0	32	Manvel	HSTNTXMADS0	164
Austin	AUSTTXTEDS0	33	Marion	MARNTXMRRS0	165
Austin	AUSTTXTWDS0	34	Matagorda	MTGRTXMTRS1	166
Austin	AUSTTXTWRS1	35	Mathis	MTHSTXMARS0	167
Austin	AUSTTXWADS0	36	McAllen	MCALTXHIRS1	168
Bammel	HSTNTXBADS0	37	McAllen	MCALTXMUDS0	169
Bammel	HSTNTXGPDS0	38	McAllen	MCALTXMURS1	170
Bandera	BNDRTXBDRS0	39	Medina Lake	MDLKTXMLRS0	171
Barker	HSTNTXBRDS0	40	Mercedes	MRCDTXMEDS0	172
Bastrop	BSTRTXBSDS0	41	Mission	MSSNTXMIDS0	173
Batesville	BTVLTXBVRS0	42	Moulton	MOLTTXMNRL0	174
Bay City	BYCYTXBYDS0	43	Nacogdoches	NCGDTXNCDS0	175
			New		
Bayside	BYSDTXBYRS0	44	Braunfels	NBRNTXNBDS0	176
Beeville	BEVLTXBVDS0	45	Nordheim	NRDHTXNHRL0	177
Bellville	BLVLTXBLRS0	46	Padre Island	CRCHTXPDRS0	178
Benavides	BNVDTXBNRS0	47	Pearsall	PRSLTXPSRS0	179
Big Wells	BGWLTXBWRS0	48	Pharr	PHRRTXPHDS0	180
Brackettville	BAVLTXBKRS0	49	Pinehurst	PNHRTXPNDS0	181
Brenham	BRHMTXBRDS 0	50	Pipe Creek	PCRKTXPCDS0	182
Brownsville	BWVLTXLIDS0	51	Pleasanton	PLTNTXPLDS0	183
Brownsville	BWVLTXOLRS0	52	Port Bolivar	PTBLTXPTRS0	184
Bruni	BRUNTXBRRS0	53	Port Isabel	PTISTXPIRS0	185
Campbellton	CMTNTXCBRS0	54	Port Isabel	PTISTXSPRS0	186
Carrizo	an anomizanna		n		107
Springs	CRSPTXCSDS0	55	Poteet	PTETTXPORS0	187
Castroville	CSVLTXCTDS0	56	Prairie View	PRVWTXPRRS0	188
Catarina	CTRNTXCRRS0	57	Refugio	REFGTXRFRS0	189
Center	CNTRTXCNDS0	58	Richmond- Rosenberg	RSBGTXRRDS0	190
Channelview	HSTNTXCHRS0	59	Rio Hondo	RHNDTXRHRS0	191
Chireno	CHRNTXCHRS0	60	Rockdale	RCDLTXRDRS1	192
Christine	CHRSTXCHRS0	61	Rockport	RCPTTXRPDS0	193
Clarkwood	CRCHTXCADS0	62	Runge	RNGETXRURS0	194
Cleveland	CLEVTXCLDS0	63	Sabinal	SBNLTXSBRS0	195
Cieveiunu	CLE VIACLEDOU	03	Saviiai	ODI IN INDUMO	175

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AT&T Texas Wire Center Clute-Lake	Wire Center CLLI	Count	AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count
Jackson	CLUTTXCLDS0	64	San Antonio	SNANTX91XOX	196
Clute-Lake	CLCTTACEDSO	0-1	San 7 Intomo	511/11/17/5/17/6/1	170
Jackson	CLUTTXLJDS0	65	San Antonio	SNANTXBADS0	197
Columbus	CLMBTXCLRS0	66	San Antonio	SNANTXBARS3	198
Corpus					
Christi	CRCHTXBURS0	67	San Antonio	SNANTXCADS2	199
Corpus					
Christi	CRCHTXTEDS0	68	San Antonio	SNANTXCADS3	200
Corpus					
Christi	CRCHTXTUDS0	69	San Antonio	SNANTXCUDS0	201
Corpus					
Christi	CRCHTXWYDS0	70	San Antonio	SNANTXDIDS2	202
Corrigan	CRGNTXCRDS0	71	San Antonio	SNANTXDIRS0	203
Cotulla	CTLLTXCORS0	72	San Antonio	SNANTXEDDS0	204
Crystal City	CRCYTXCCRS0	73	San Antonio	SNANTXEDRS2	205
Cuero	CUERTXCRRS0	74	San Antonio	SNANTXFRDS0	206
Cypress	CYPRTXCYDS1	75	San Antonio	SNANTXFRRS5	207
Dayton	DYTNTXDYRS0	76	San Antonio	SNANTXGEDS0	208
Deer Park	HSTNTXDPDS0	77	San Antonio	SNANTXGERS2	209
Deer Park	HSTXTXSDRS0	78	San Antonio	SNANTXHERS2	210
Devine	DEVNTXDVDS0	79	San Antonio	SNANTXICRS2	211
Donna	DONNTXDODS0	80	San Antonio	SNANTXJARS0	212
Eagle Lake	EGLKTXEGDS0	81	San Antonio	SNANTXLADS0	213
Eagle Pass	EGPSTXEPDS0	82	San Antonio	SNANTXLEDS0	214
Edcouch	EDCHTXEDRS0	83	San Antonio	SNANTXLSRS1	215
Edna	EDNATXEDRL0	84	San Antonio	SNANTXMADS0	216
El Campo	ELCMTXELDS0	85	San Antonio	SNANTXMCDS0	217
Elgin	ELGNTXELDS0	86	San Antonio	SNANTXMCRS0	218
Encinal	ENCLTXECRS0	87	San Antonio	SNANTXPARS0	219
Falcon					
Heights	FLHGTXFHRS0	88	San Antonio	SNANTXPEDS0	220
Flour Bluff	CRCHTXFBDS0	89	San Antonio	SNANTXSARS1	221
Freeport	FRPTTXFRDS0	90	San Antonio	SNANTXSHRS0	222
Freer	FRERTXFRRS0	91	San Antonio	SNANTXSLDS0	223
Friendswood	HSTNTXFRDS0	92	San Antonio	SNANTXSORS2	224
Galveston	GLTNTXSHRS1	93	San Antonio	SNANTXTADS1	225
Galveston	GLTNTXSODS0	94	San Antonio	SNANTXTHRS0	226
Galveston	GLTNTXWIRS0	95	San Antonio	SNANTXUCDS0	227
Garwood	GRWDTXGRRS0	96	San Antonio	SNANTXWADS0	228
Goliad	GOLITXGORL0	97	San Antonio	SNANTXWEDS0	229
Hallettsville	HTVLTXHVRL0	98	San Augustine	SAGSTXSARS0	230
Harlingen	HRLNTXHGDS0	99	San Benito	SNBNTXSBDS0	231

			***************************************	\ <u></u>	·
AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count	AT&T Texas Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count
Hebbronville	HBVLTXHBRS0	100	San Diego	SNDGTXSDRS0	232
Hempstead	HMPSTXHMDS0	101	Satsuma	HSTNTXSADS0	233
Hondo	HONDTXHODS0	102	Seabrook	HSTNTXSERS1	234
Houston	HSTNTXCADS0	103	Sealy	SELYTXSERS0	235
Houston	HSTNTXCLDS0	104	Seguin	SGINTXMQRS0	236
Houston	HSTNTXCLDS1	105	Seguin	SGINTXSGDS0	237
Houston	HSTNTXCLDS2	106	Sheldon	HSTNTXSHRS0	238
Houston	HSTNTXFADS0	107	Shiner	SHNRTXSHRL0	239
Houston	HSTNTXGLCG0	108	Sinton	SINTTXSIRS0	240
Houston	HSTNTXHODS0	109	Skidmore	SKDMTXSKRS0	241
Houston	HSTNTXHUDS0	110	Smithers Lake	SMLKTXSMDS0	242
Houston	HSTNTXIDCG0	111	Smithville	SMVLTXSMRS0	243
Houston	HSTNTXJADS0	112	Splendora	SPLDTXSPDS0	244
Houston	HSTNTXJADS1	113	Spring	SPRNTXNODS0	245
Houston	HSTNTXMCDS0	114	Spring EMS	SPRNTXSMRS0	246
Houston	HSTNTXMICG0	115	Sullivan City	SLCYTXSCRS0	247
Houston	HSTNTXMIDS0	116	Taylor	TAYLTXTADS0	248
			Texas City-La		
Houston	HSTNTXMODS0	117	Marque	TXCYTXLMDS1	249
			Texas City-La		
Houston	HSTNTXNADS0	118	Marque TXCYTXTCDS0 2		250
			Texas City-La		
Houston	HSTNTXNADS1	119	Marque	TXCYTXTCDSO	251
Houston	HSTNTXNEDS0	120	Timpson	TMPSTXTMRS0	252
Houston	HSTNTXORDS0	121	Tomball	TBLLTXKLDS0	253
Houston	HSTNTXOVDS0	122	Tomball	TBLLTXTBDS0	254
Houston	HSTNTXOXDS0	123	Uvalde	UVLDTXUVDS0	255
Houston	HSTNTXPADS0	124	Valley Lodge	VLLDTXVLDS0	256
Houston	HSTNTXPRDS0	125	Victoria	VCTATXVIDS1	257
Houston	HSTNTXREDS0	126	Waller	WLLRTXWLRS2	258
Houston	HSTNTXRIDS0	127	Westfield	HSTNTXWEDS0	259
Houston	HSTNTXSUDS0	128	Wharton	WHTNTXWHDS0	260
Houston	HSTNTXSUDS1	129	Woodsboro	WDBOTXWBRS0	261
Houston	HSTNTXUNDS0	130	Yoakum	YKUMTXYKRL0	262
Houston	HSTNTXWYDS0	131	Yorktown	YRTWTXYTRL0	263
Houston	HSTXTXSMRS0	132	Zapata	ZPTATXZARS0	264

<u>Verizon Wire Centers</u> (THCUSP-eligible wire centers are italicized)

Verizon Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count	Verizon Wire Center	Wire Center CLLI	Count
Agua Dulce	AGDLTXXARS0	1	Lavernia	LVRNTXXADS0	41
\overrightarrow{Alvin}	ALVNTXALDS0	2	Lyford	LYFRTXXADS0	42
Aransas		3			43
Pass	ARPSTXXADS0		Marble Falls	MRFLTXXADS0	
Beach City	BHCYTXXADS0	4	Mont Belvieu	MTBLTXXADS0	44
Blanco	BLANTXXADS0	5	Nixon	NIXNTXXADS0	45
Bloomingto		6			46
n	BLTNTXXADS0		New Waverly	NWWVTXXARS0	
Boerne	BORNTXXADS0	7	Odem	ODEMTXXADS0	47
		8	Orange		48
Bishop	BSHPTXXADS0		Grove	ORGVTXXADS0	
Blessing	BSNGTXXADS0	9	Palacios	PLCSTXXADS0	49
		10	Point		50
Buda	BUDATXXADS0		Comfort	PNCMTXXARS0	
Charlotte	CHRLTXXARS0	11	Premont	PRMTTXXADS0	51
		12	Portland		52
Crosby	CRSBTXXADS1		Gregory	PTLDTXXADS0	
Dickinson	DCSNTXXADS0	13	Port Lavaca	PTLVTXXADS0	53
		14	Port		54
Dilley	DLLYTXXADS0		O'Connor	PTOCTXXADS0	
Del Rio	DLRITXXADS0	15	Robstown	RBTNTXXADS0	55 56
		16	Rio Grande	≀io Grande	
Del Rio	DLRITXXBDS0		City	RGCYTXXADS0	
Del Rio	DLRITXXBRL0	17	Ray mond ville	RMVLTXXADS0	57
Dripping		18	Round		58
Springs	DRSPTXXADS0		Mountain	RNMTTXXBRS0	
East		19			59
Bernard	EBRNTXXADS0		Roma	ROMATXXADS0	
Falfurrias	FLFRTXXADS0	20	Rosharon	RSHRTXXARS0	60
Fredericksb		21			61
urg	FRBGTXXADS0		Seadrift	SDRTTXXADS0	
Gonzales	GNZLTXXADS0	22	Shepherd	SHPHTXXADS0	62
George	GRGWTXXADS	23			63
West	0		Smiley	SMLYTXXADS0	
Granger	GRNGTXXADS0	24	Somerset	SMRTTXXADS0	64
Granite		25			65
Shoals	GRSHTXXBDS0		San Gabriel	SNGBTXXARS0	
Georgetown	GRTWTXXADS0	26	Santa Rosa	SNRSTXXARS0	66
		27	Hitchcock-		67
Georgetown	GRTWTXXADS1		Santa Fe	SNTFTXXADS0	

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Huffman	HFMNTXXADS0	28	Stafford	STFRTXXADS0	68
Highlands	HGLNTXXADS0	29	Stonewall	STNWTXXARS0	69
Hitchcock-		30	21011111111		70
Santa Fe	HTCHTXXADS0		Taft	TAFTTXXARS0	
		31	Thorndale-		71
Ingleside	INSDTXXADS0		Thrall	THDLTXXADS0	
Johnson		32			72
City	JHCYTXXADS0		Three Rivers	THRRTXXADS0	
Jarrell	JRRLTXXADS0	33	Tivoli	TIVOTXXARS0	73
Jourdanton	JRTNTXXADS0	34	Vanderbilt	VNDRTXXARS0	74
Kemah	KEMHTXXADS0	35	Wallis	WALSTXXADS0	75
Kemah	KEMHTXXBDS0	36	Willis	WILSTXXADS0	76
Kyle	KYLETXXADS0	37	Willow City	WLCYTXXADS0	77
La Feria	LAFRTXXADS0	38	Wimberley	WMBRTXXADS0	78
League City	LGCYTXXADS0	39	Weslaco	WSLCTXXADS0	79
League City	LGCYTXXAH02	40			

Application of Texas Hearing and Telephone For Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and as an Eligible Telecommunications Provider

ATTACHMENT B

LIFELINE/LINKUP TARIFF

SECTION 11 – LIFELINE AND LINK-UP

11.1 Lifeline Program

11.1.1 General

- 1) A qualifying low-income customer subscribing to the Lifeline Program shall receive federal and state reductions to their monthly tariffed residential local exchange access line rate and federal subscriber line charge.
- 2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is eligible for the Lifeline Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.
- 3) The Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to long distance services, 976 and other information related telecommunications services, custom calling features, or other ancillary services that may or may not be tariffed. Customers may obtain these services, where available, at their discretion.
- 4) The Lifeline Program rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges; however, customers eligible for the Link-Up America Program will receive a 50% reduction on applicable service connection charges (or activation fees) with a maximum reduction of \$30.00 per customer. Remaining charges may be paid in twelve (12) equal monthly installments at no interest. Customers must submit proof of eligibility by mail or fax to the Company before service can be established to receive this "Linkup credit."
- 5) A customer eligible for the Lifeline Program is automatically eligible for the Link-Up America Program. However, a customer may qualify and receive assistance under the Link-Up America Program independently of the Lifeline Program.
- 6) The Company may not disconnect the local service of a Lifeline Program customer for the non-payment of toll charges unless the Company has received a waiver from the Commission allowing disconnection of service for this reason. However, the Company reserves the right to implement toll blocking, at no charge, if the customer incurs a significant balance of unpaid toll bills. The Company will inform the customer, by direct mail, of this change to their service due to the customer's non-payment of all outstanding toll charges. Upon payment of outstanding toll charges, the Company shall remove mandatory blocking at the customer's request.

- 7) Upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program, a customer will be offered a subscription, at no charge, to toll blocking service (where technically available) which denies the customer access to the long distance telecommunications network; however, the customer is under no obligation to accept the subscription to toll blocking upon initial subscription to the Lifeline Program.
- 8) The Lifeline Program rate reductions will not be available on a retroactive basis.

11.1.2 Designated Lifeline Program Services

The Company shall offer the following services or functions defined to be qualified, or designated, Lifeline Program Services:

- (A) Single party service
- (B) Local Usage
- (C) Voice-grade access to the public network
- (D) Dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) signaling or its functional equivalent
- (E) Access to emergency (9-1-1) services
- (F) Access to operator services
- (G) Access to interexchange services
- (H) Access to directory assistance services
- (I) Toll Blocking service

In addition, the Company shall offer any other service determined by the Commission to be "basic local telecommunications service" or any service supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under 47 C.F.R.§54.101 or any regulation substituted for same.

11.1.3 Eligibility Requirements

11.1.3.1 Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

The Lifeline Program rate reductions will be provided per eligible customer. An eligible customer shall be defined as an individual who participates in one of the following programs:

- 1) Medicaid
- 2) Food Stamps
- 3) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- 4) Federal Public Housing Assistance
- 5) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)- or

6) Health benefits coverage under the State Child Health Plan (CHIP).

A customer may also be eligible if he or she is an eligible resident of tribal lands who is living on or near a reservation. Pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688), a "reservation" is defined as any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony.

A customer may also be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines as published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and updated annually.

11.1.3.2 Obligations of the Customer

- (A) Customers who meet the low-income requirement for qualification but do not receive benefits under the programs listed in subsection (d) of this section may provide the LIDA with self-enrollment for Lifeline benefits.
- (B) Customers receiving benefits under the programs listed in subsection (d) of this section and who have telephone service with the Company will be subject to the Lifeline automatic enrollment procedures as provided by the LIDA unless they provide the LIDA with a request to be excluded from Lifeline Service.
- (C) Customers receiving benefits under the programs listed in subsection (d) of this section and who do not have telephone service must initiate a request for service from the Company.
- (D) Opportunity for contest.
 - (i) A customer who believes that their self-enrollment application has been erroneously denied may request in writing that LIDA review the application, and the customer may submit additional information as proof of eligibility.
 - (ii) A customer who is dissatisfied with LIDA's action following a request for review under clause (i) of this subparagraph may request in writing that an informal hearing be conducted by the Public Utility Commission staff.
 - (iii) A customer dissatisfied with the determination after an informal hearing under clause (ii) of this subparagraph may file a formal complaint with the Public Utility Commission.

11.1.3.3 Obligations of the Company

- (A) The Company shall only provide Lifeline Service to all eligible customers identified by the Low-Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) within its service area in accordance with this section.
- (i) The Company shall identify, on the initial database provided by the LIDA, those customers to whom it is providing telephone service

and shall begin reduced billing for those qualifying low-income customers.

- (ii) The eligible customer shall not be charged for changes in telephone service arrangements that are made in order to qualify for Lifeline Service, or for service order charges associated with transferring the account into Lifeline Service. If the eligible customer changes the telephone service, the Lifeline provider shall begin reduced billing at the time the change of service becomes effective.
- (iii) Upon receipt of the monthly update provided by the LIDA, the Company shall begin reduced billing for those qualifying low-income customers subscribing to services within 30 days.
- (iv) The LIDA shall provide a self-enrollment form by direct mail at the customer's request. The LIDA shall maintain customers' selfenrollment forms and provide a database of self-enrolling customers to the Company.

11.1.3.4 Discontinuance of Service

- 1) If the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) notifies the Company that a customer no longer qualifies for the Lifeline Program, the Company shall provide a direct mail notice advising the customer that the Lifeline Program discount will be discontinued within 30 days unless the customer notifies the Company that An error has been made. If the customer notifies the Company of an error, the Lifeline Program discount will continue for additional 30 days to allow the customer adequate time to correct records and obtain an affirmation of eligibility from the HHSC or LIDA. If the customer has not obtained an affirmation of eligibility from the HHSC or LIDA by the end of the 60-day period, Lifeline Program discounts may discontinue and the customer's service and billing will continued at applicable rates.
- 2) Customers who are not receiving benefits through programs listed in section 11.1.3.1, but whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines may be required to provide the Company with an affidavit of self-certification to verify their status. The Company may require such verification annually by notifying those customers through direct mail that an affidavit must be submitted within 60 days to continue receiving the Lifeline Program discounts. If the customer does not respond within 60 days, the Lifeline Program discount will cease and the customer's service and billing will continue at applicable rates.

11.1.4 Deposits and Credit Requirements

- 11.1.4.1 The Company will not charge a service deposit in order to initiate the Lifeline Program if the eligible customer voluntary elects to receive Toll Restriction.
- 11.1.4.2 The Company may charge a service deposit if:
 - 1) The eligible customer denies subscription to toll blocking upon subscribing to the Lifeline Program.
 - 2) The Company receives a Commission waiver from having to provide toll blocking due technical limitations.
- 11.1.4.3 In instances where the Company may require a service deposit, the same credit verification procedures and deposit regulations used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company are also applicable to the eligible customers for the Lifeline Program.

11.1.5 Service Connection Charges

11.1.5.1 Service connection charges will not be billed directly to eligible customers with existing, qualifying service converting to or initiating service from the Lifeline Program. Carrier will obtain funding from the federal government under the LinkUp program for all available amounts. To the extend the LinkUp program does not compensate Carrier for any service initiation charges, customer will be liable for the remainder of any amounts due.

11.1.5.2 Service connection charges do apply when:

- 1) Existing eligible customers requesting additional nonqualifying services at the time Lifeline Program reduced billing is initiated.
- 2) New Customers (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program and establishing qualifying service.
- 3) Any subsequent moves or changes after initial connection to the Lifeline Program

In instances where service connection charges apply, customers qualifying for the Lifeline Program automatically qualify for the Link-Up America Program and may be eligible to receive a reduction in the applicable service connection charges as provided elsewhere in this tariff. All uncompensated amounts will be a customer obligation, although Carrier is willing to amortize this amount over a 12-month period.

11.1.6 Amounts

The Company shall apply Lifeline Program rate reductions, per eligible customer, as described below.

		Ionthly ate Reduction
a.	Waiver of Federal Subscriber Line Charge	\$6.50
b.	Federal Reduction to Residential Local Exchange	\$1.75
c.	State Reduction to Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rate (maximum)	\$3.50
d.	Federal Matching Reduction to Residential Local Exchange Access Line Rate (maximum)	\$1.75 um)
e.	Additional Company-provided rate reduction	on \$3.00

While Company intends to afford service to customers at a reduced or free amount, Customer is liable for any nonrecurring or recurring charges not compensated by federal programs.

11.2 Link-Up America

11.2.1 General

- 11.2.1.1 The Link-Up America Program is a federally sponsored telephone assistance program designed to make basic telephone service accessible to qualifying low-income customers who are currently not on the public switched network.
- The Company shall provide Link-Up America Program assistance to all qualifying low-income customers within its service area.
- 11.2.1.3 A customer eligible for the Lifeline Program is automatically eligible for the Link-Up America Program. However, a customer may qualify and receive assistance under the Link-Up America Program independently of the Lifeline Program.
- 11.2.1.4 Assistance is provided to the qualifying low-income customer by one or both of the following programs:
 - a 50% reduction on applicable service connection charges (or activation fees) with a maximum reduction of \$30.00 per customer.
 - 2) A one-year, non-interest assessed, deferred payment plan for payment, up to \$200, of service connection charges associated with the establishment of telephone service for the qualifying low-income customer that is amortized over a period of months. Service connection charges (or activation charges) include those charges, as specified in this tariff, customarily associated for the establishment of telephone service. Any LinkUp waiver of cost recovery from the end user is not, and shall not be construed as, any variance from assessment of the usual charge.
- 11.2.1.5 Nothing in this section shall prohibit a customer who is otherwise eligible for the Link-Up America Program from obtaining and using telecommunications equipment and services designed to aid such customer in utilizing qualifying telecommunications services.

11.2.2 Eligibility Requirements

11.2.2.1 Qualifying Low-income (Eligible) Customer Criteria

The Link-Up America Program will be provided for a primary single access line at the qualifying customer's principal place of residence. A qualifying customer is an individual whose annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines as published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and updated annually or who participates in at least one of the following programs:

- 1) Medicaid
- 2) Food Stamps
- 3) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- 4) Federal Public Housing Assistance
- 5) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)- or
- 6) Health benefits coverage under the State Child Health Plan (CHIP).

A customer may also be eligible if he or she is an eligible resident of tribal lands who is living on or near a reservation. Pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688), a "reservation" is defined as any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony.

11.2.2.2 Obligations of the Customer

A customer who is eligible for the Link-Up America Program, but does not have a telephone service must initiate a request for service from the Company.

11.2.2.3 Credit and Billing

1) Credit References

The credit verification procedures used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company will also be used for eligible customers applying for service under the Link-Up America Program.

2) Deposits

The deposits standards used for all applicants who apply for service with the Company will also be used for eligible customers applying for service under the Link-Up America Program, however deposit requirements will be waived for eligible customers of the Link-Up Program who voluntarily elect to receive toll blocking.

3) Billing Standards

Once service has been established for a Link-Up America Program applicant, the customer will be expected to adhere to the same bill payment policies expected of any other customer.

4) Telephone Exchange Service

The Company shall inform the Link-Up America Program applicant of the lowest priced options for one-party basic residential service. However, if the Link-Up America Program applicant chooses a higher grade of service, the service order will be issued for that service.

ATTACHMENT C

PROPOSED ADVERTISEMENT IN NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION



Do you need a phone? Are you having trouble paying your telephone bills? If so, you may be eligible to take advantage of the Lifeline and Link-Up programs offered by Texas Hearing and Telephone. These programs help eligible households pay for basic telephone hook-up costs and monthly services.

Lifeline helps qualified customers save a significant amount of money on their monthly phone bills, while Link-Up helps eligible customers receive a generous discount on the installation of telephone service in their homes

Also, customers can voluntarily forego presubscribed long distance telephone service by requesting toll-blocking, a service that prevents toll calls (such as long distance) from being made and prevents these customers from having to pay hefty service deposits. Customers using this service can still use pre-paid calling cards or dial-around services to place long-distance calls from their homes.

You may be qualified if your household income is no more than 150 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, you are eligible resident of Tribal lands, or if you participate in any of the following programs:

Medical Assistance Program (MAP); Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act; Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8; Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); or health benefits coverage under the state childe health plan (CHIP).

For more information, or to find out if you qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up, call Lite-Up Texas at 1-866-454-8387 or Texas Hearing and Telephone at 1-800-953-2092.

Necesita un telefono? Tiene problemas para pagar las facturas de telfono? Si es asi, usted puede ser elegible para aprovechar los programas de la ifeline y Link-up ofreciios por Texas Hearing and Telephone. Estos programas ayudan a las falilias elegibles a pagar por wl costo de instalacion de una linea basica y servicios mensuales.

Lifeline ayuda a los clients calificados ahorrar una cantidad significative de dinero en sus facturas telefonicas mensuales, mientras que Link-Up ayuda a los cliented calivicados a recibir un generoso descuento en la instalacion del serivcio telefonico en sus hogares.

Por otra parte., los clients pueden voluntariammente renunciar el servicio telefonicio de larga distancia solicitando un bloque in la larga sistancia, un servicio que envita llamadas bloqueadas (como de larga distancea) de ser hechas y evita estos clients de tener que pagar fuertes depositos de servicios. Los cliented que utilicen este servicio aun puede usar las tarjetas telefonicas prepagadas o de los servicios de dial-around para colocar llamadas de larga distancia de sus hogares.

Usted puede callificar sis u ingreso familiar no es mas que 150 por ciento de los gobiemos federal de pobreza de ingresos, usted es un residente elegivle de las tierras tribales, o si usted participa in cualquieta de los siquientes programas:

Programa de Asistencia Medica (MCARE); Programa de asistenia de Nutricion Suplemmentaria (SNAP); Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI) bajo del Titulo XVI de la Ley de Suguridad; Asistencia Federal de Viviendas (FPHA) o la Secciion 8; Hogares de Bajos Ingresos con el Programa de Asistencia Energetica (LIHEAP); o beneficios de cobertura de salud bajo el plan estatal de nino (CHIP).

Para obtener mas informacion, o para averiguar si usted califica para Lifeline Yy Link-Up, llamar a Lite-Up Texas al 1-866-454-8387 o Servicio al Cliente de Texas Hearing and Telephone al 1-800-953-2092.



TEXAS HEARING & TELEPHONE 1-800-953-2092

Customers eligible for Texas Hearing and Telephone service under the Lifeline program will receive basic residential service at a monthly charge of between \$4.30 and \$7.30, depending on location. Eligible customers who do not have existing service may also receive a discount under the Link-Up program of up to 50% from Texas Hearing and Telephone regular connection charges, which currently range up to \$50.00, and may pay those charges through monthly installments, without interest, over a one-year period.

For information on Texas Hearing and Telephone's charges for Lifeline and Link-Up services, call Texas Hearing and Telephone customer service at **1-800-953-2092**.

Los clientes elegibles para servicio de Texas Hearing and Telephone bajo el programa Lifeline recibirán un servicio residencial básico a un precio mensual de entre \$4.30 y \$7.30, dependiendo de la localidad. Los clientes elegibles que no tienen servicio existente también puede recibir un descuento bajo de el programa Link-up de hasta 50% de los cargos regulares de coneccion de Texas Hearing and Telephone, que en la actualidad alcanzan hasta 50.00%, y puede pagar los gastos a trabes de cuotas mensuales, sin intereses, durante un periodo de un ano.

Para obtener información sobre las tarifas de Texas Hearing and Telephone y los servicios de Lifeline y de Link-up, llame a servicio al cliente de Texas Hearing and Telephone at 1-800-953-2092.

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ATTACHMENT D

PROPOSED TEXAS REGISTER NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER AND AS AN ELIGIBLE SERVICE PROVIDER

Notice is given to the public of an application filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas on July _, 2010, for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and as an eligible telecommunications provider (ETP).

Docket Title and Number: Application of Texas Hearing Services Corporation d/b/a Texas Hearing and Telephone for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and as an Eligible Telecommunications Provider. Docket No. _____. The Application: Texas Hearing and Telephone is requesting ETC/ETP designation in order to be eligible to receive federal and state universal service funding to assist it in providing universal service in Texas. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and P.U.C. Substantive Rule § 26.417, the commission, either upon its own motion or upon request, shall designate qualifying common carriers as ETCs and ETPs for service areas set forth by the commission. Texas Hearing and Telephone seeks ETC/ETP designation throughout all areas served by AT&T Texas and Verizon in Texas. Persons who wish to comment upon the actions sought should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas by ______, 2010. Requests for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or you may call the Public Utility Commission's Customer Protection Division at (512) 936-7150. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (800) 735-2989 to reach the commission's toll free number (888) 782-8477. All comments should reference Docket No. _____. ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2010

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS **COUNTY OF CAMERON**

- My name is Brooks Rule. I am President of Applicant Texas Hearing Services Corporation d/b/a Texas Hearing and Telephone.
- I swear or affirm that I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in the foregoing application, that I am competent to testify to them, and that I have the authority to make this application on its behalf. I further swear or affirm that all of the statements and representations made in the application are true and correct.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on the 7th day of August, 2010

MARIA E. ZAMARRIPA Notary Public, State of Texas My Commission Expires August 21, 2013

Maus & Sancares

Notary Public, State of Texas

My Commission Expires: 3/21/13