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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION OF ASSIST WIRELESS §
LLC FOR DESIGNATION §
AS AN ELIGIBLE §
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER §**

Docket No. 11-0408

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

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**ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER**

COMES NOW Assist Wireless LLC (Assist Wireless or Applicant) and makes application to the Illinois Commerce Commission for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC). This application is made pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and the rules and regulations of the Illinois Commerce Commission (Commission) for the purpose of receiving federal universal service support. The Applicant requests ETC designation throughout the AT&T Illinois service territory. ETC designation is not sought in any rural area. The Applicant seeks only low income support and is not requesting high cost support. The Applicant satisfies all of the statutory and regulatory requirements for designation as an ETC in the requested designated service area. As explained herein, the public interest would be served by granting this Application.

Assist Wireless is a Texas-formed limited liability company with its offices located at 2330 Gravel Street, Fort Worth, TX 76118. Exhibit A contains the Article of Incorporation.

The following company contact information is provided to the Commission for complaints and/or billing dispute issues:

Assist Wireless, LLC.
Byron Young, CEO
(817) 371-5279
2330 Gravel Street
Fort Worth, TX 76118
byrontoddyoung@gmail.com

The Company is authorized to do business in Illinois. See Exhibit B. The Company is in full compliance with all Commission orders and Commission rules and regulations.

The Applicant is a wireless telecommunications carrier. Applicant has been granted a Certificate of Wireless Authority by this Commission, in Docket No. 11-0299, by order dated May 18, 2011. Upon designation as an ETC, the Applicant will provide the supported services throughout the requested designated service area and offer Lifeline and Link-Up service to qualified low-income consumers. The Applicant will advertise the availability of the supported services using media of general distribution.

Assist Wireless is a unique company with a unique marketing strategy. Formulated by the officers of the company, who have a combined 50+ years of experience in servicing the low-income segment of the population, the marketing strategy, at its core, is to be where the customers live, work and play.

Whereas other Lifeline service providers spend their time, money and efforts on mass-marketing and a “get-in-and-get-out” philosophy, Assist Wireless fosters relationships with local community advocacy groups, government agencies, non-profit volunteer groups, churches and shelters. Assist Wireless employs several key strategies for distribution that make it uniquely different than other carriers providing Lifeline service.

I. Summary of Offering

Lifeline

Each eligible wireless customer will receive a handset at no cost to the subscriber. In addition, they will have access to local and long distance calling without a credit check, deposit or contract.

Customers eligible for Lifeline will be provided 68 minutes of free anytime local and long distance minutes each month. Service will be provided with no recurring monthly charge. Custom calling features include: caller ID; call waiting; call forwarding; 3-way calling; and voicemail.

Unused minutes will roll over from month-to-month. If all minutes are used before monthly additions, a customer may purchase additional minutes in increments of \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00. The Company intends to make these minutes available for purchase at retail outlets.

Link Up

Under 47 C.F.R. § 54.411(a)(1), Link Up is an assistance program for qualifying low-income consumers that an ETC shall offer as part of the provision of services supported by the federal universal service support mechanism and consists of a reduction in the carrier's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a consumer's principal place of residence. The reduction shall be half of the customary charge or \$30.00, whichever is less. The Company will be reducing its activation charge by \$30.00.

The Company will give consumers the option to pay the activation charge over a 12 month period with no interest.

II. Designation of an ETC

Title 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, provides that a state commission shall upon request designate a common carrier as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) for a service area designated by the state commission. Title 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) provides that an ETC shall be eligible to receive universal service support in accordance with section 254 of the Act and shall, in the service area for which the designation is received, offer the services that are supported by federal universal service support mechanisms under section 254(c), either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services, and shall advertise the availability of such services and their costs using media of general distribution.

III. Applicant is a Common Carrier

The Applicant will provide CMRS throughout the requested service area, and as a CMRS provider, the Applicant is regulated as a common carrier under 47 C.F.R. § 20.9.

IV. Applicant Shall Offer Required Services

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(1), the Applicant shall, throughout the service area for which designation is received, offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms defined in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a). These services are: 1) voice grade access to the public switched network; 2) local usage; 3) dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent; 4) single-party service or its functional equivalent; 5) access to emergency services; 6) access to operator services; 7) access to interexchange service; 8) access to directory assistance; and 9) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

V. Applicant Shall Use Its Own Facilities Or a Combination

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(A) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(1), the Company shall use its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services to offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms. The Company has its own switch through which involved telecommunications traffic will be routed for the provision of one or more of the supported services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms, and which will be used in combination with the network architecture being provided from an underlying wireless provider that the Company obtains at resale.

VI. Applicant Shall Provide Service Throughout the Designated Service Area

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d), the Applicant shall offer the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms throughout the service area for which designation is received. In addition, the Applicant commits to provide service throughout its proposed designated service area to all customers making a reasonable request for service. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i). The Applicant certifies that it will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Applicant's service area where the Applicant's network already passes the potential customer's premises. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i)(A). The Applicant certifies that it will provide service within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Applicant's licensed service area but outside its existing network coverage, if service can be provided at reasonable cost by: 1) modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment; 2) deploying a roof-mounted antenna or other equipment; 3) adjusting the nearest cell tower; 4) adjusting network or customer facilities; 5) reselling services from another carrier's facilities to provide service; or 6) employing, leasing or constructing an additional cell site, cell extender, repeater, or other similar equipment. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(i)(B).

VII. Applicant Will Advertise

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1)(B) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d)(2), the Company shall advertise the availability of the services that are supported by Federal universal service support mechanisms and the charges for such services using media of general distribution. The Company will advertise, among other means, via newspaper, mail circular, and radio and target

residential customers with its advertising efforts. The Company will advertise in accordance with Commission rules. The Company will make a concerted effort to notify municipal, state, and federal governmental agencies whose clientele may likely benefit the most from having the Company designated as an ETC by the Commission. Exhibit C contains sample planned advertising.

VIII. Applicant Shall Make Available Lifeline and Link up Service

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.405 and 47 C.F.R. § 54.411(d), the Company shall make available Lifeline and Link Up service to qualifying low-income consumers and publicize the availability of Lifeline and Link Up service in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the service.

IX. Service Area for Which Designation Is Requested

The Company requests ETC designation throughout the wire centers within the non-rural exchanges of the State of Illinois (i.e., the certificated service territory of AT&T Illinois).

X. Emergency Situations

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2), a carrier seeking ETC designation must demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

Since the Company is providing service to its customers through the use of facilities obtained from other carriers, this arrangement allows the Company to provide to its customers the same ability to remain functional in emergency situations as currently provided by the carriers to their own customers, including access to a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, rerouting of traffic around damage facilities, and the capability of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

XI. Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(3), a carrier seeking ETC designation must demonstrate that it will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. The Applicant commits to comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for Wireless Service.

XII. Designation of Applicant as an ETC Is in the Public Interest

Competition furthers the goals of telecommunications service and provides the consumer with a greater choice of providers and service choices, which will in turn result in market-driven prices and quality. Granting the Applicant ETC status would advance principles of customer service by providing increased competition and is therefore in the public interest.

In addition, a wireless carrier offers the following additional benefits: generally, a larger local calling area than a wireline carrier; as well as mobility.

XIII. 5-Year Plan

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(ii), a carrier seeking ETC designation must submit a five-year plan that describes proposed improvements or upgrades to the Applicant's network on a wire center-by-wire center basis. Because the Applicant seeks ETC designation solely for purposes of reimbursement for provision of subsidized Lifeline and Link Up services to eligible customers, submission of a five-year plan should not be required at this time.

XIV. Local Usage Plan

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(4), a carrier seeking ETC designation must demonstrate that it offers a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent LEC in the service areas for which it seeks designation. The Company's offering of local usage plans will be comparable to or exceed the underlying ILEC plans. See Section I above.

XV. Equal Access

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(5), the Applicant certifies that it may be required to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other ETC is providing equal access within the service area.

XVI. Consumer Certification

Consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 54.409, the Applicant obtains a consumer's signature on a document under penalty of perjury that the consumer receives benefits under an approved

assistance program or that the consumers' household meets applicable income requirements; and that the consumer will notify the Applicant if the consumer ceases participation in a program or his income criteria exceeds approved thresholds. The Applicant shall obtain this certification annually and shall put in place quality control mechanisms to ensure that only eligible consumers are participating in Lifeline and Link Up.

XVII. Waiver Requested and Compliance Commitments

Assist requests waiver of the Commission Code Part 736 requirement that customers receive monthly bills. The parties stipulate that they do not object to this waiver provided the waiver applies only to pre-paid wireless telecommunications services.

Assist will provide detailed quarterly reporting (separate for both wireline and wireless operations) as specified in 83 III. Adm. Code 757 to the commission and UTAC.

Assist agrees to identify inactive handsets, remove them from the Lifeline roll, and discontinue receiving USAC support for those customers. The following procedure will be utilized. In the event that an Assist wireless customer goes 60 days without any usage, independent of the service end date, Assist will attempt to contact that customer. Assist will first attempt to text message the customer asking them to call customer service. In the event that this is unsuccessful Assist will then attempt to contact the customer via a telephone call to the handset and/or an alternative number. If the customer wishes to discontinue service or if Assist is still unable to contact the customer after 75 days without any usage, the customer will be immediately de-enrolled from Assist's Lifeline program, their Assist Lifeline benefits will be

discontinued, and Assist will not seek further USF reimbursements for that customer, unless within 30 days from de-enrollment, the customer uses the phone or contacts customer service to request re-enrollment in the Lifeline program. Lifeline benefits will not be applied retroactively. If the customer does not use the phone or request re-enrollment within 30 days of the de-enrollment, the customer's phone will be de-activated and they will no longer be able to make or receive calls other than 9-1-1 calls. Customers shall be able to make 9-1-1 calls even after they are de-enrolled and de-activated.

In accordance with Commission rules set forth Code Part 757, Subpart C, Assist acknowledges that it will not seek Illinois UTSAP supplemental connection fee assistance, and that such assistance is not available to wireless ETCs as they are not local exchange carriers or "LECs". See 83 Ill. Adm. Code 757.200.

Assist will comply fully with all provisions contained in 47 C.F.R. Part 54.411, as well as other applicable requirements contained in 47 C.F.R. Part 54.

Assist will cooperate fully with any formal or informal Commission or Staff investigation or audit.

XVIII. Conclusion

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Applicant respectfully requests designation as an ETC for purposes of receiving federal universal service support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Foster
Attorney at Law
707 West Tenth Street
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 708-8700

By:  _____

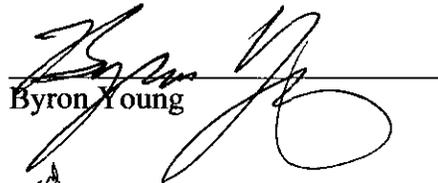
Mark Foster
State Bar No.
Attorney for Assist Wireless, LLC

VERIFICATION

STATE OF TEXAS

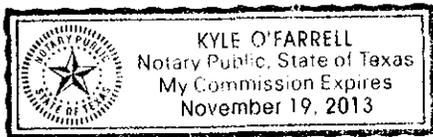
COUNTY OF TARRANT

PERSONALLY came and appeared before me, the undersigned party in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, the within named Byron Young who after being duly sworn by me stated under oath as follows: that I am CEO of Assist Wireless LLC; that I executed the foregoing pleading for and on behalf of Assist Wireless LLC; that I am authorized to execute and file said pleading; and that the matters and things set forth in said pleading are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

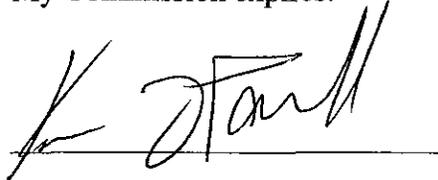

Byron Young

SWORN TO SUBSCRIBED before me on this 23rd day of May, 2011.

NOTARY PUBLIC



My Commission expires: Nov 19, 2013



EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A	ARTICLE OF INCORPORATION
EXIBIT B	AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN ILLINOIS
EXHIBIT C	SAMPLE ADVERTISEMENT