

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 98M-236T

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLORADO HIGH COST
SUPPORT MECHANISM.

**COMMISSION DECISION ADOPTING CALENDAR YEAR
2021 BUDGET FOR THE COLORADO HIGH
COST SUPPORT MECHANISM**

Mailed Date: December 10, 2020
Adopted Date: November 25, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. Section 40-15-208(2)(b)), C.R.S., requires the Commission to submit a written report to the General Assembly by December 1st of each year. This report must contain proposed contributions to be collected through a rate element assessment by each telecommunications provider and the proposed total amount of the Colorado High Cost Support Mechanism (CHCSM) from which distributions are to be made for the following calendar year.

2. In 2018, the Colorado General Assembly enacted Senate Bill (SB) 18-002, which concerns the financing of broadband deployment and sunsets the High Cost Support Mechanism in 2024. SB18-002 significantly modifies Article 15 of Title 40 regarding the Colorado High Cost Fund, including that § 40-15-208(2)(a)(III), C.R.S. requires that the Commission maintain the current 2.6 percent CHCSM surcharge for the next five years.

3. Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (Staff) estimates that high cost support for voice services in 2021 will total approximately \$9.5 million, distributions to the broadband account will be approximately \$14.0 million, and contributions to the fund will be approximately \$25.0 million. Administrative expenses associated with the CHCSM for the Commission's outside contractor and the Commission combined are estimated to be \$322,000 for 2021.

4. We adopt the 2021 calendar year budget proposed by Staff for the CHCSM. The Colorado Universal Service Charge shall remain at the current 2.6 percent, as required in § 40-15-208(2)(a)(III), C.R.S.

5. We approve issuance of the 2020 report to the General Assembly and adopt the 2021 calendar year budget for the CHCSM.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

- 1. We approve issuance of the 2020 Legislative Report to the General Assembly.
- 2. The Colorado Universal Service Charge shall remain at 2.6 percent.
- 3. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 25, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

JOHN C. GAVAN

MEGAN GILMAN

Commissioners