

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the matter of the Application of)
BW BROADBAND INC.)
For designation as an)
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier)
_____)

MPSC No. U- 21951

AMENDED APPLICATION

BW BROADBAND INC. (“Applicant”), through its counsel, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C. and pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 USC 214(e)(2), Sections 54.101 through 54.321 of the Rules of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), 47 CFR 54.101-54.532, and the Michigan Public Service Commission (“Commission”) December 20, 2012 Order as amended by its January 17, 2013 Order in MPSC Case Nos. U-14535, U-16959 and U-17182,¹ hereby requests designation as a Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) for both high-cost support and for lifeline support in the Winn Exchange, located in Deerfield and Freemont Townships, Isabella County, Michigan².

Following Staff’s review of the initial Application and its request for additional information, Applicant is submitting this Amended Application, and provides the following information:

I. THE APPLICANT

The name and principal place of business of Applicant is:

BW Broadband Inc.
425 Main Street
Blanchard, MI 49310
989-561-9930

¹ *In the matter, on the Commission’s own motion to conform Lifeline/Link-Up programs to new federal requirements adopted in 47 CFR 54.410 and 54.417, Case No. U-14535 In the matter, on the Commission’s own motion, to implement the Federal Communications Commission Order II-161 with regard to eligible telecommunications carriers for universal service fund support. Case No. U-16959 In the matter, on the Commission’s own motion to receive eligible telecommunications carrier filings for 2013 Case No. U-17182 (December 20, 2012 Order, January 17, 2013 Amending Order.*

² Deerfield and Freemont Townships are located in Census Block 26073940300

Regulatory Contact:

Attn: Mike Fitzpatrick, General Manager

Phone: 989-561-9930

mfitzpatrick@blanchardtel.com

Correspondence concerning Application should be directed to:

Michael G. Oliva

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Lansing, MI 48933-2193

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Applicant is a Michigan telephone corporation organized on April 2, 2025 pursuant to 1883 PA 129, MCL 484.1 et seq. A Certificate of Good Standing is attached as **Exhibit A-1**. Applicant is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blanchard Telephone Association, Inc. (“BTA”). On May 20, 2025, BTA entered into a Partial Asset Purchase Agreement with Winn Telephone Company (“Winn”) pursuant to which BTA agreed to purchase, and Winn agreed to sell, the assets of Winn that are utilized to provide Winn’s Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (“ILEC”) operations within the Winn Exchange located in the Townships of Deerfield and Fremont, Isabella County, Michigan. Upon closing of the transaction, after receiving all necessary regulatory approvals from this Commission³ and the FCC⁴, the purchased assets would be transferred to Applicant, a newly-formed subsidiary of BTA. Winn will cease providing local exchange service in the Winn Exchange, and Applicant will become the ILEC in the Winn Exchange as the successor to Winn. Winn would continue its CLEC operations in other exchanges for which it has a license in

³ On June 23, 2025, Applicant filed its application for a license to provide local exchange service in the Winn Exchange, MPSC Case No. U- 21934 A temporary license was granted by the MPSC on August 21, 2025.

⁴ On July 21, 2025 Applicant and Winn filed their Application with the FCC for approval of the assignment of Winn’s Domestic Section 214 License for the Winn Exchange only from Winn to Applicant, and on August 18, 2025 filed a Supplement to the Application, FCC WC Docket No. 25-236

Michigan. The transaction is anticipated to close on October 9, 2025 or as soon thereafter as all necessary regulatory approvals are obtained from both the MPSC and FCC.

II. APPLICANT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ETC DESIGNATION

Applicant is seeking ETC designation both for high-cost support and for lifeline support. Applicant meets all applicable federal and state requirements for designation as an ETC, including 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and 47 C.F.R. § 54.201, et seq. Applicant certifies that it will comply with all of the service requirements applicable to the support that it receives. Applicant will submit all required annual forms and recertifications to the Commission in a timely manner.

A. ETC Service Area

Applicant seeks designation as an ETC solely in the Winn Exchange currently served by Winn, as it will be the successor ILEC to Winn in that Exchange upon obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals and the closing of the transaction. As noted above, the Winn Exchange is contained in Census Block 26073940300. **Exhibit A-2** Lists the Exchange, CLLI Code and Census Block in which Applicant seeks ETC Designation. Census Block 26073940300 includes certain tribal lands of the Isabella Reservation, and the tribal lands include a portion of the Winn Exchange. Accordingly, a copy of this Amended Application is being provided to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, which is the only tribal area within the Winn Exchange. A map of the Winn Exchange, showing the portion including tribal lands, is attached as **Exhibit A-3**

B. Common Carrier Services

Applicant will provide standalone voice service and broadband service to the public throughout its service area as a common carrier. Although Applicant does not currently have any customers, it will acquire the customer base of Winn in the Winn Exchange upon the closing of the transaction. These services will be provided via that same facilities and equipment as currently being provided

by Winn in the Winn Exchange, and which are being acquired by Applicant. Upon closing Applicant will own all the facilities utilized in providing service in the Winn Exchange. Applicant intends to provide the same services, at the same rates, terms and conditions of service as Winn is currently providing, transparently to the existing customers. Applicant notes that Winn is currently designated as an ETC both as to its ILEC operations in the Winn Exchange and its CLEC operations in other exchanges.

C. Access to Emergency Services

Applicant will provide 911 and E911 services to all of its customers. It will have the ability to remain functional in emergency situations, will have back-up power to ensure functionality without external power sources, will be able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations. Applicant will acquire Winn Telephone Company's natural gas driven standby generator which is capable of supporting the office and telecommunications equipment instantaneously upon a power interruption and battery back-up which provides 12 hours of continuous use in the event of the loss of natural gas service to the generator.

D. Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards

Applicant will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards.⁵ Applicant will be responsible, managerially and legally for handling and responding to customer issues. Applicant will provide customers with a telephone number for complaints and will make this

⁵ The FCC has waived the requirements to: (1) submit a five-year plan per 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1)(ii); and (2) demonstrate that it will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards per 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(3). The FCC waived these requirements because “the Commission adopted more specific measures to track deployment, including annual reporting of service to geocoded locations and certification of compliance with benchmark milestones” and “such obligations were no longer essential to the Commission’s ability to monitor ETC use of support for its intended purpose.” FCC ETC Procedures Notice at 4-5. To the extent necessary, Applicant requests a waiver of state requirements based on these waived FCC requirements.

number available on its website prior to commencing services. Applicant will post the MPSC hotline on its Lifeline page.

E. Lifeline Program

Applicant is seeking ETC designation for Lifeline support, notwithstanding that, at this time, Winn does not offer Lifeline support, and there are no Lifeline customers currently in the Winn Exchange. Applicant will provide lifeline to qualifying low-income customers, and publicize the availability of lifeline service. A sample proposed Lifeline Advertisement is attached as **Exhibit A-4**. Applicant will adhere to all Lifeline broadband and Lifeline voice minimum requirements.

F. Applicant Is Not Subject to a Denial of Federal Benefits

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 1.2002, Applicant is not subject to a denial of federal benefits pursuant to section 5301 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, as implemented in the Commission's rules.

III. REQUEST FOR EX-PARTE APPROVAL

This Application may be approved and the requested ETC designation may be made without the time and expense of a hearing under Section 203(1) of the MTA. Neither the MTA nor any other law requires that a hearing be held. The Commission has repeatedly concluded that it need not solicit comment on the application for designation as an ETC since it would only further delay the application. Therefore, no notice of hearing is required.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RELIEF

WHEREFORE, BW Broadband, Inc. respectfully requests that the Michigan Public Service Commission either by order or minute action without a hearing within ninety (90) days from the date of this Application:

A. Designate Applicant. as an eligible telecommunications carrier for purposes of receiving federal universal service support for funding assistance in the State of Michigan for Interstate Common Line Support; Local Switching Support; High Cost Loop Support; Lifeline and Link-Up Support; and Safety Net Additive Support.

B. Designate the Applicant's licensed area as its service area for purposes of determining universal service obligations and support mechanisms;

C. Order the Executive Secretary to send appropriate notice of this order to the Federal Communications Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company; and

D. Order such other relief as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted

BW Broadband Inc

Dated : August 29 2025

By: _____
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EXHIBIT A-1
CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING



Lansing, Michigan

This is to certify:

Entity Name: BW BROADBAND INC.

Entity ID#: 803367864

Entity Type: Domestic Profit Corporation

Initial Filing Date: 04/02/2025

Delayed Effective Date:

Formation Jurisdiction: Michigan

Act Formed Under: 129-1883 Telephone and Messenger Service Companies

That the above referenced entity was validly incorporated and said corporation is validly in existence under the laws of this state.

This certificate is issued in conformity with the Act it is formed under, to attest to the fact that the company is in good standing in Michigan as of this date and is duly authorized to transact business and for no other purpose.

This certificate is in due form, made by me as the proper officer, and is entitled to have full faith and credit given it in every court and office within the United States.



In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, in the City of Lansing, on June 23, 2025.

Linda Clegg, Director

Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau

Certificate Number: 10647

Verify this certificate at: www.michigan.gov/corpverifycertificate

EXHIBIT A-2

SERVICE AREA FOR ETC DESIGNATION

Exchange: Winn Exchange

CLLI Code: WINNMIXIDS0

Census Block: 26073940300

EXHIBIT A-3

MAP OF WINN EXCHANGE

(Showing Tribal Lands of Saginaw Chippewa Tribe)



ld

W Remus Rd

20

Deerfield
Center

W Remus Rd

Tribal Land (shaded)

S Whiteville Rd

WINN EXCHANGE

Rolland Center

S Winn Rd

Winn

S Green Rd

EXHIBIT A-4

SAMPLE LIFELINE ADVERTISEMENT

SAMPLE LIFELINE ADVERTISEMENT

[BW BROADBAND LOGO]

About Lifeline

Lifeline service is a government assistance program that provides discounts to eligible participants:

The Federal Lifeline program is available for both wireline and wireless voice and broadband service. Qualified low income consumers can receive a discount on their monthly telephone and/or broadband service. Eligible low income consumers can receive the following discounts:

- Discount of \$5.25 per month off of your voice only service.
- Discount of \$9.25 per month off of your broadband only service.
- Discount of \$9.25 per month off of your bundled service (voice and broadband).

Michigan Lifeline Program

The Michigan Lifeline program is for landline voice telephone service only. This program makes basic local telephone service more affordable for low income families through a discount on their monthly telephone service. Eligible low income consumers can receive the following discounts:

- Under age 65 receive a discount of \$8.25 (inclusive of the Federal lifeline discount)
- Age 65 or older receive a minimum discount of \$12.35 per month. (inclusive of the Federal lifeline discount)

Lifeline is non-transferable, meaning you can not transfer the discount from one person to another. The benefit is limited to one discount per household and only eligible customers may enroll.

Eligibility

Participation in Federal Assistance Programs

To receive the monthly Lifeline discount, you or someone in your household must show proof that you receive benefits from at least one of these programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Medicaid • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) formerly Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- VA Survivors Pension
- VA Veterans Pension (Supplemental Income for Wartime Veterans)

Tribal Land Residents

If you live on Tribal lands, you can qualify for Lifeline if you or someone in your household participates in at least one of the following programs:

- Any of the federal assistance programs listed above
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (Income-Based)
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)

Tribal Lands residents also qualify for an additional monthly credit of up to \$25.00 with Enhanced Tribal Lifeline and up to \$100.00 toward installation fees with Tribal Link-Up Assistance.

Additional Survivor Eligibility:

Survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and related crimes may qualify for up to six months of emergency Lifeline support. After six months a survivor would have to apply for the standard Lifeline benefit. To qualify for the survivor benefit, your household income must be at or below the 200% poverty guidelines listed in the chart below, or you must participate in one of the previously listed assistance programs or one of the following assistance programs:

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch or Breakfast program, including enrollment at a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school or school district
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year

Survivors will need to provide a document from their service provider showing proof of an attempted line separation request. Survivors cannot successfully complete their application for emergency Lifeline support without this document.

Annual Income

You may also qualify for the monthly Lifeline discount if your annual income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Apply for Lifeline

Please complete your Lifeline application www.lifelinesupport.org/get-started/ and return it to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) along with proof of eligibility. Alternatively, you can apply online at CheckLifeline.org.

Once your application and proof of eligibility has been submitted, the USAC will notify you of your eligibility status. Once you have been approved for Lifeline, please contact BW Broadband Customer Support to have the Lifeline discounts added to your account.

Changes in Eligibility

You must verify your continued eligibility every year (or as requested) with USAC. You must notify USAC when you are no longer eligible for Lifeline. If there is someone else at your address who is receiving a Lifeline discount and you wish to be considered a separate economic unit, you must submit a separate Lifeline Application www.lifelinesupport.org/get-started/.

For more information, please contact BW Broadband Customer Support