

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charter

1. The Committee's Official Designation

The official designation of this federal advisory committee is the "Disability Advisory Committee" (DAC or Committee).

2. Authority

The DAC is hereby renewed at the direction of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

3. The Committee's Objective and Scope of its Activities

The mission of the DAC is to make recommendations to the Commission on the full range of disability access topics specified by the Commission and to facilitate the participation of consumers with disabilities in proceedings before the Commission. In addition, this Committee is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders with interests in this area to exchange ideas, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to effectively address disability access issues. The purpose of this committee is to provide the Commission with input that will help to ensure that consumers with disabilities have equal and affordable access to communications products and services, and to facilitate consumer involvement and input by people with disabilities into all activities of the Commission. Topics to be considered by the DAC, as specified by the Commission, may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Communications Access:
 - Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) (Section 225 of the Communications Act);
 - Telecommunications Services and Equipment (Section 255 of the Communications Act);
 - Advanced Communications Services and Equipment (Sections 716 and 718 of the Communications Act);
 - Hearing Aid Compatibility (Section 710 of the Communications Act);
 - Access to Telephone Emergency Services (9-1-1) (Section 106 of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act);

- National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (Section 719 of the Communications Act);
- Video Programming:
 - Video Description (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act);
 - Closed Captioning (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act);
 - Access to Televised Emergency Information (Sections 303(u), (z), and 713 of the Communications Act);
 - Accessible User Interfaces on Video Programming Apparatus/Access to Program Guides and Menus Provided by Navigation Devices (Sections 303(aa) and (bb) of the Communications Act).

4. Description of Duties

In keeping with its advisory role, the duties of the DAC will be to provide recommendations to the Commission on disability access issues as specified by the Commission, gather data and information, and perform those analyses that are necessary to respond to the questions or matters before it.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

6. Support

The Commission will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings of the DAC. DAC members will not be compensated for their services. To ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, including committee members and members of the public, the Commission will cover costs associated with the provision of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities when such costs are directly associated with the conduct of the DAC's meetings, or are directly associated with the conduct of subcommittee meetings. Some examples of reasonable accommodations include on-site sign language interpreters, meeting agendas produced in Braille, and computer assisted real-time transcription services (CART).

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the DAC's functions are estimated to be \$275,000, which includes Commission staff time equivalent to 2.25 FTEs.

8. Designated Federal Officer

Full-time or permanent part-time employees, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO). The DFO will approve or call all DAC and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all DAC and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Chairman.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of DAC Meetings

The DAC shall meet approximately three times per year. The DAC is authorized to facilitate its work through informal subcommittees which shall report their activities and recommendations to the full DAC. It is anticipated that the work of subcommittees will be conducted primarily through telephone calls, e-mail correspondence, and e-mail discussion lists. Subcommittee recommendations must be reported to the DAC as a whole and may not be treated as recommendations of the DAC unless, and until, ratified by the full DAC (either as proposed or with modifications). Approved DAC recommendations shall be reported to the Chair of the Commission.

10. Duration

The Commission will review the accomplishments and activities of the DAC to determine if, after two years, this charter should be renewed and whether the DAC should continue as a Federal Advisory Committee.

11. Termination

The DAC shall terminate two (2) years from the renewal date of this charter, unless renewed prior to the termination date.

12. Membership

An estimated 35 – 40 members of the DAC shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with appropriate Commission staff. Members will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees, as necessary. Members will represent a wide variety of entities with interests in disability access issues that are within the purview of the Commission. Members will include representatives of organizations and other entities representing people with disabilities, including people who are blind or visually impaired, people who are deaf or hard of hearing, people with cognitive disabilities, people with multiple disabilities, including those who are deaf-blind, and people with speech disabilities. Members will also include representatives of state or local governments and industry and, if serving as Special Government Employees, individuals with significant expertise regarding the issues to be addressed by the DAC. Together, these members will be selected to represent a balance of viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be considered by the DAC. Members should be prepared to attend at least three meetings per year

of the DAC, and are also expected to participate regularly in the deliberations of at least one subcommittee. Members will have an initial and continuing obligation to disclose any interests in, or connections to, persons or entities who are or will be regulated by, or who have interests before the Commission.

13. Subcommittees

The Commission may create subcommittees and may appoint individuals who are not members of the DAC to participate as members of a DAC subcommittee or other subgroups. These subcommittee members will have voting privileges within the subcommittee, subcommittees or subgroups to which they are assigned, but will not have voting privileges at plenary meetings of the DAC unless they are also members of the DAC. Like other members, these individuals will be chosen to serve in a representative capacity for entities with interest in these issues or as Special Government employees chosen for their expertise on specific issues. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the Commission.

14. Recordkeeping

Records of the proceedings will be preserved as required by applicable laws and regulations. All records of the DAC, and its subcommittees and subgroups, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

15. Filing Date

December 21, 2018