



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
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**CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU ESTABLISHES GUIDELINES  
FOR DISPOSITION OF UNREIMBURSABLE REASSIGNED NUMBERS DATABASE  
CREATION COSTS  
CG Docket No. 17-59**

With this Public Notice, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau announces the methodology for reimbursement to service providers of Reassigned Numbers Database (RND or database) creation costs in the small number of circumstances where providers have gone out of business or otherwise cannot be located.

In the 2018 *Reassigned Numbers Database Order*,<sup>1</sup> the Commission addressed unwanted calls to consumers with numbers reassigned from a previous consumer. Specifically, the Commission established a single, comprehensive database to contain reassigned number information from each service provider that obtains North American Numbering Plan (NANP) U.S. geographic numbers and toll free numbers.<sup>2</sup>

To fund the RND's creation, the Commission mandated a one-time contribution from service providers, totaling approximately \$6 million, that the Database Administrator would reimburse from subscription fees.<sup>3</sup> Specifically, the Database Administrator must reimburse contributing service providers in full by November 30, 2025, the end of the contract's five-year term.<sup>4</sup> To date, the Commission has authorized two reimbursements totaling approximately \$4 million.<sup>5</sup> The Commission

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<sup>1</sup> *Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls*, Second Report and Order, 33 FCC Rcd 12024, 12025 (2018) (*Reassigned Numbers Database Order*).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 12025, para. 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 12041, paras. 47-49 (explaining that "providers will be able fully to recover the costs they pay for creation of the database and query functionality, but no more."); see also *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces the Proposed North American Numbering Plan Administration Fund Size Estimate and Contribution Factor for October 2020 through September 2021*, CC Docket 92-237, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 8595, 8596 (2020) (*2021 Proposed NANP Administration PN*). The RND's Billing and Collection Agent (B&C Agent) collected the contribution via the NANP funding mechanism from telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers. See *Reassigned Numbers Database Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 12041, para. 47; *2021 Proposed NANP Administration PN*, 35 FCC Rcd at 8595; see also 47 CFR §§ 52.17, 52.5(i).

<sup>4</sup> FCC North American Numbering Plan Administrator, Pooling Administrator, and Reassigned Numbers Database Administrator Performance Work Statement at § 1.9, <https://sam.gov/opp/2858385497a641eab4b8068ad337fdb0/view#attachments-links>, Attach. 1 – NANPA-PA-RND PWS revised 07-10-2020 (PWS). See also 33 FCC Rcd at 12041, para. 49 (stating that providers will fully recover costs they paid for database creation).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Mark Jackson, Partner, Welch LLP, to Rebecca Maccaroni, RND Program Manager, FCC Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (June 13, 2025) (on file in CG Docket No. 17-59) (Welch Memo). At the direction of the Commission, the B&C Agent repaid service providers by check or credit against the company's annual NANP funding obligation. When a company did not have an annual NANP funding obligation, the B&C Agent repaid by check. *Id.*

authorized reimbursement of the remaining approximately \$2 million for payment prior to November 30, 2025, as required.<sup>6</sup>

Service providers whose reimbursement equals or exceeds \$500 can choose reimbursement by check or credit against their 2025 NANP funding obligation. The B&C Agent will repay service providers whose reimbursement is less than \$500 by credit against their 2025 NANP funding obligation and by check for those without a 2025 NANP funding obligation.<sup>7</sup>

Since the B&C Agent collected creation costs in 2020, a small number of contributing service providers appear to have gone out of business or the B&C Agent has not been able to otherwise locate them.<sup>8</sup> The Commission authorized the B&C Agent to make the final reimbursement and to attempt to reimburse all service providers, including those it has previously been unable to reimburse. If a service provider does not cash a check within 180 days, the B&C Agent will make one additional attempt to locate and pay the service provider by check.<sup>9</sup> If that is unsuccessful, the B&C Agent will distribute any creation costs it cannot return to a contributing service provider by October 1, 2026, as follows:

Step 1: If applicable, the B&C Agent will apply a service provider's reimbursement to any debt it owes to the NANP Fund.

Step 2: If any excess funds remain after Step 1, or, if the service provider does not owe debt, the B&C Agent, in coordination with the Database Administrator, will follow the process for excess fund distribution established in the *Guidelines PN*.<sup>10</sup> That is, the B&C Agent will remit the excess funds to the Database Administrator to first reduce or eliminate any database funding deficits from the prior year(s), next to accelerate the repayment of other service providers' creation costs, and then to lower RND subscription fees.<sup>11</sup>

We find this prioritization reasonable and fair. Consistent with the *Reassigned Numbers Database Order*,<sup>12</sup> the B&C Agent will not pay service providers more than they contributed, nor will the Database Administrator receive more than its contractually established operation costs. We also find that

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<sup>6</sup> PWS at § 1.9.

<sup>7</sup> Welch Memo at 3.

<sup>8</sup> Welch Memo. The B&C Agent called and emailed the numbers and addresses on file or found via research as part of the first two reimbursement efforts. The B&C Agent maintains customer information, primarily populated from Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Filings (e.g., Form 499A), for each service provider. With respect to the two previously authorized reimbursements, the B&C Agent's research included a review of USAC submissions and notes, corporate information accessible online, and U.S. Treasury documentation, if any. When the B&C Agent made contact with one of the service providers in question, it sent checks to the service provider. If a service provider did not cash its check, the B&C Agent made another attempt to contact the service provider and issue another check. *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* Qualifying service providers will have 180 days to cash their checks after which reimbursement will default to a credit against future years' NANP funding obligations. The B&C Agent will attempt to locate and send a check multiple times only to companies that received a check by default, primarily those companies that do not have a current NANP funding obligation.

<sup>10</sup> *Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Establishes Guidelines for Operation of the Reassigned Numbers Database*, CG Docket No. 17-59, Public Notice, 35 FCC Rcd 3559, 3651-62 (2020) (*Guidelines PN*) (specifying the steps the Database Administrator will take to distribute excess funds in the following order: (1) apply the funds to reduce or eliminate any prior year(s) funding deficit; (2) if funds remain after step 1, and if service providers have not been repaid creation costs in full, apply the funds to accelerate their repayment; (3) if funds remain after steps 1 and 2, apply the funds to future years' database operation costs thereby lowering fees paid by subscribers).

<sup>11</sup> *See id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Reassigned Numbers Database Order*, 33 FCC Rcd at 12041, para. 49.

further postponing reimbursement and engaging in more extensive efforts to locate the remaining service providers would unreasonably increase database administration costs. Moreover, to the extent the B&C Agent cannot reimburse a particular service provider directly or offset that service provider's debt, we find that it is in the public interest to use these amounts to lower the costs of using the database.

Finally, if a contributing service provider believes it is entitled to reimbursement but has not received a check or a NANP obligation credit, it should contact the B&C Agent immediately.<sup>13</sup> A service provider may also contact the Commission for assistance at the addresses below. All efforts to repay contributing service providers will cease on October 1, 2026.

*People with Disabilities.* To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice).

*Additional Information.* For further information, contact Rebecca Maccaroni of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-7603 or [Rebecca.Maccaroni@fcc.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Maccaroni@fcc.gov).

*Effective Date.* The methodology announced herein will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

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<sup>13</sup> Contact the B&C Agent at [nanp@welchllp.com](mailto:nanp@welchllp.com) or (613)760-4512.