

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

June 12, 2020

Dear Ms. Chiavetta,

The Institute on Disabilities at Temple University (IOD) was notified on June 8, 2020 via email that Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) would not be renewing the agreement between the IOD and OVR for the administration of the traditional Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP) that ends June 30, 2020. The reason that was given was financial - not due to satisfaction or performance.

The IOD is proud of the successful administration of this program continuously since 2007. Pennsylvania's TDDP is held in high regard and Sandi McNally has served as an officer on the board of the national Telecommunication Equipment Distribution Programs Association (TEDPA) for several years. The IOD has been instrumental in the growth of the traditional TDDP, including the recent addition of the Wireless Expansion Initiative.

Historically, the IOD is contracted by OVR to administer the traditional TDDP for approximately \$80,000 a year. The actual cost of this administration of the traditional TDDP is approximately \$98,000. The IOD funds about 18.5% of TDDP administrative costs from other resources. We do this because we are committed to helping Pennsylvanians with disabilities gain access to distance communication that works for them.

- We understand that OVR is the entity charged with the administration of this program and the associated administrative costs.
- We understand that PUC funds are used for equipment as well as consumer outreach and education.
- We understand that there is an apparent difference between the way the OVR and the PUC interpret the mandates for the administration of TDDP.

In the spirit of collaboration and because we value our collective work, we might have a solution to allow additional time for the PUC and OVR to come to a shared understanding and move forward.

If OVR asked the IOD to continue to administer the program without compensation, the IOD would be able to continue the administration of the TDDP until August 31, 2020 using monies the IOD have used to supplement the administration of TDDP. Starting September 1, 2020, the IOD would need to have an executed funding agreement to continue to administer the traditional TDDP.

Sincerely,



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