

**Independent Auditor's Report on
Financial Statements of the
South Carolina Universal Service Fund
*for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014***

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Independent Auditor's Report

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
Columbia, South Carolina

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and special revenue fund of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (the "Fund") as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Fund's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and special revenue fund of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund, as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the respective changes in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 7 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audits of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express opinions or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 20, 2016, on our consideration of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Columbia, South Carolina
October 20, 2016

Required Supplementary Information

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South Carolina Universal Service Fund Management's Discussion and Analysis

Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") is prepared by the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (the "SCORS") management to provide general information on the financial activities of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund ("Fund"). The MD&A should be read in conjunction with the Fund's financial statements and accompanying notes. The financial statements, notes, and this discussion are the responsibility of SCORS's management.

The SCORS is an independent regulatory agency of the State of South Carolina that is responsible for representing the public interest in the regulation of public utilities, including electric, natural gas and telephone. The SCORS receives its authority and responsibilities from the State Legislature. One of the SCORS's responsibilities is to administer the Fund. The Fund was established to ensure the widespread availability of affordable local exchange telephone service.

This section of the Fund's financial report represents our discussion and analysis of the financial performance during the period presented. It should be read in conjunction with the Fund's financial statements, which follow this section.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Fund is a special revenue fund, which is a governmental fund that uses the flow of current financial resources and the modified accrual basis of accounting. The financial statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Fund's finances and assist in determining whether there will be adequate resources available to meet the current needs of the Fund. The Fund's financial statements include two statements:

- The Balance Sheet/Statement of Net Assets presents only assets expected to be used and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter. The difference between assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance.
- The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Net Position/Statement of Activities presents a comparison of revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures for which payment is due during the year or soon thereafter; and other financing sources and uses. The net of the categories increases or decreases the fund balance.

This annual report consists of two parts – management's discussion and analysis and the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements also include notes that explain key information contained in the financial statements and provide further details on select data.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Fund is resized each November in compliance with orders issued by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("PSC") and utilizing information reported by the telecommunication companies. The Fund has a \$15,954 fund balance/net position at December 31, 2015.

CURRENTLY KNOWN FACTS

- Assessable revenues reported during Fund Year 2015 did not significantly change from the prior year.
 - There is “churn” and consolidation in the telecommunications industry with various companies entering and exiting the market. Some companies that were contributing to the Fund have effectively removed themselves from the market.
 - The SC General Assembly passed the *Consumer Choice and Technology Act* (Act 7) in May 2009. This legislation allows electing telecommunications carriers to opt out of PSC regulation (S.C. Code Ann. § 58-9-576(C)). Telecommunications carriers who elect this de-regulation receive reduced distributions from the Fund. BellSouth Telecommunications, LLC d/b/a AT&T South Carolina elected to operate under Act 7 in October 2009, and there has been a significant reduction in the amounts disbursed to AT&T. Since 2009, AT&T’s distribution from the State USF has been reduced by approximately \$25 million, and AT&T no longer receives stand-alone residential line support.
 - In 2013, SCORS discovered and reported that AT&T was including lines that did not qualify as stand-alone residential lines. The Commission ordered AT&T to coordinate with SCORS to determine the amount of the overages and to propose an equitable remedy. After researching its records, AT&T provided SCORS with the amounts of the overages, which SCORS independently reviewed. AT&T and SCORS sought and received Order No. 2014-453 allowing SCORS to suspend all payments from the Fund to AT&T pending further order of the Commission.
 - On June 24, 2014, in Order No. 2014-520, the Commission approved a Joint Proposal filed by AT&T and SCORS to correct overages received by AT&T for support for grandfathered stand-alone residential lines. In this order, AT&T was directed to pay \$312,207 to the Fund, which includes interest of \$23,021. AT&T did not receive any of the remaining \$419,166 of support that was awarded but not yet distributed, as a result of its adjusted request. With regard to Lifeline support, AT&T was directed to pay \$13,006 to the Fund due to its error in calculating eligible Lifeline support, and SCORS reduced the monthly Lifeline support payments to AT&T by \$3,251 for the months of April through November 2014. The net impact of the Commission’s Order was more than \$1 million reduction in the size of the Fund. AT&T paid the amounts due to the Fund in July 2014.
 - In accordance with the Joint Proposal, AT&T did not seek the statutory allowed support for stand-alone residential lines for the December 2014 through November 2015 Fund year. AT&T does continue to receive reimbursement for its Lifeline customers.
 - Due to the reduction in AT&T’s support from the Fund, certain accounts on the Fund’s financial statements were impacted and created large variances as compared to the prior year. The overpayments/credits payable line item decreased from \$783,290 in 2014 to \$179,667 in 2015 due to amortization of revenue collected to support AT&T that was not distributed in 2014. The revenue billed to contributors and cash on hand in 2015 was reduced accordingly.
 - On January 26, 2016, PSC Order No. 2016-22 determined that wireless voice telecommunications service competes with local voice telecommunications services and required wireless telecommunications carriers to contribute to the Fund.
-
- The South Carolina Cable Television Association (“SCCTA”) had appealed the

Commission directive denying the SCCTA's Motion. In its motion, the SCCTA had requested reductions in amounts drawn from the Fund, which the Commission had denied on June 18, 2014. This litigation was suspended but has now been dismissed given the passage of Act 181, the "State Telecom Equity in Funding Act" which became effective May 25, 2016.

- Act 181 modifies the Fund by merging Interim Local Exchange Carrier Fund ("LEC") into the Fund and caps the Fund at the combined support levels. The Fund continues to reimburse Carrier(s) of Last Resort ("COLRs") at \$3.50 per month per Lifeline customer served and continues to permit administration costs, including the annual independent audit.
- On June 27, 2016, SCORS filed a petition with the PSC to approve the implementation of Order 2016-22 and Act 181 effective January 1, 2017. The petition also seeks approval to modify the fund year from December through November to a calendar year.
- Today, the Fund continues to operate as it has in recent years with the exception that AT&T no longer receives support for stand-alone residential lines.

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as of December 31,

	2015	2014
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,309,704	\$ 3,101,100
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts in 2015 and 2014 of \$0 and \$12,703, respectively	234,989	81,036
Total assets	\$ 2,544,693	\$ 3,182,136
 Liabilities and Fund Balance/Net Position		
Distributions payable	\$ 2,348,934	\$ 2,373,334
Accounts payable	138	321
Overpayments/credits payable	179,667	783,290
Total liabilities	2,528,739	3,156,945
 Fund Balance/Net Position		
Assigned fund balance/unrestricted net position	15,954	25,191
Total fund balance/net position	15,954	25,191
Total liabilities and fund balance/net position	\$ 2,544,693	\$ 3,182,136

Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance/Statements of Activities for the years ended December 31,

	2015	2014
Revenues		
Contributions	\$ 28,599,113	\$ 28,815,366
Late payment assessments	2,146	2,946
Total revenues	28,601,259	28,818,312
 Expenditures/Expenses		
Telecommunication service providers	28,449,129	28,899,698
General and administrative expenditures/expenses	161,367	220,631
Total expenditures/expenses	28,610,496	29,120,329
Deficit of revenues under expenditures/changes in net position	(9,237)	(302,017)
Fund balance/net position, at beginning of year	25,191	327,208
Fund balance/net position, at end of year	\$ 15,954	\$ 25,191

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The primary purpose of this financial report is to provide a general overview of the Fund's finances and to demonstrate the Fund's accountability for the money it receives and spends. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to:

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
Attn: Finance Director
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

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Financial Statements

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South Carolina Universal Service Fund
Balance Sheets/Statements of Net Position
as of December 31,

	2015	2014
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,309,704	\$ 3,101,100
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts in 2015 and 2014 of \$0 and \$12,703, respectively	234,989	81,036
Total assets	\$ 2,544,693	\$ 3,182,136
Liabilities and Fund Balance/Net Position		
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

South Carolina Universal Service Fund
 Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance/Statements of
 Activities
 for the years ended December 31,

	2015	2014
Revenues		
Contributions	\$ 28,599,113	\$ 28,815,366
Late payment assessments	2,146	2,946
Total revenues	28,601,259	28,818,312
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Fund balance/net position, at beginning of year	25,191	327,208
Fund balance/net position, at end of year	\$ 15,954	\$ 25,191

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

South Carolina Universal Service Fund
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

General and Basis of Accounting – On October 10, 2001, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“PSC”) issued Order No. 2001-996 at Docket No. 97-239-C which approved the final guidelines for the establishment of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (the “Fund”). The Fund was established to provide both universally available basic local exchange telephone service at affordable rates and to assist with the alignment of prices and/or cost recovery.

The Fund is funded by an assessment on all telecommunications service providers, that provide intrastate and interstate telecommunications services in the State of South Carolina (the “State”) and is paid, via a monthly remittance advice, to the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (“SCORS”). Support disbursements from the Fund are made monthly to eligible telecommunication service providers.

The Fund’s financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles for governments as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), for the period presented. The Fund’s financial statement presentation follows the guidelines of GASB No. 34, as amended, which establishes standards for financial reporting for state and local governments. The Fund is a special revenue fund of the State. These statements present the financial position and results of operations of only the activity of the Fund and are not intended to present the financial activity for the State.

The Fund is accounted for using the current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are included on the balance sheets/statements of net position. The statements of revenues present revenues and expenditures that result in changes in fund balance/net position.

The Fund is accounted for on the modified accrual basis of accounting, which recognizes revenues when they become measurable and available to pay current reporting period liabilities. Revenues are considered available if received within one year after the fiscal year-end. Expenditures and related liabilities are recognized when obligations are incurred.

For the purposes of the Fund, there are no reconciling items between the fund financial statements and the presentation on an entity-wide basis. Accordingly, the financial statements have been presented in a combined format as permitted under GASB No. 34.

The Fund has adopted GASB Statement No. 54, “Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions” (required implementation date of June 2011). This Statement established criteria for classifying governmental fund balances into specifically defined classifications. Classifications are hierarchical and are based primarily on the extent to which the Fund is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in the funds may be spent. Application of the Statement required the Fund to classify and report amounts in the appropriate fund balance classifications. The Fund’s accounting and finance policies are used to interpret the nature and/or requirements of the funds and their corresponding assignment of non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned. Unrestricted net position consists of all other assets and liabilities that do not meet the definition of restricted or net investment in capital assets. Fund balances are classified as follows:

Non-spendable includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in a spendable form, such as inventory or prepaid insurance, or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact – such as a trust.

Restricted includes fund balance amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of ordinances, state or federal laws, or externally imposed conditions by grantors or creditors.

South Carolina Universal Service Fund
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Committed includes fund balance amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Fund itself, using the highest level of decision-making authority. To be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Fund takes the same highest-level action to remove or change the constraint.

Assigned includes fund balance amounts the Fund intends to use for a specific purpose. Intent can be expressed by an official or body to which the Fund delegates the authority.

Unassigned includes fund balance amounts not included in other spendable classifications.

The Fund permits funds to be expended in the following order: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

The Fund has adopted GASB Statement No. 63, "Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position." Statement 63 became effective for the Fund's fiscal year ending December 31, 2012 and provides a new statement of net position format to report all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net positions (which is the net residual amount of the other elements). This Statement required that deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources be reported separately from assets and liabilities. This Statement also amends certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 34, "Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments", and related pronouncements to reflect the residual measure in the statement of financial position as net position, rather than net assets. As such, the Fund modified its government-wide financial statement presentation to incorporate these requirements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – Cash and cash equivalents represent cash on deposit and invested in various instruments by the State Treasurer as part of the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool (the "Pool"). Because the Pool operates as a demand deposit account, amounts invested in the Pool are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Accounts Receivable – Receivables are payments due under normal terms requiring payment by the 30th of the month. Any accounts not paid by the 30th of the month are assessed a late payment charge of .0493% per day. Late payment charges are recorded as late payment assessments. Late payments assessed for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, were \$2,146 and \$2,946 respectively.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts – An allowance for doubtful accounts is recorded and reduces the carrying value of accounts receivable to their net realizable value. The amount of the allowance is based upon management's estimate of currently uncollectible accounts, historical trends, current economic trends, and other factors. The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$0 and \$12,703 as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. In addition, the Fund recognized bad debt expense of \$(4,697) and \$21,417 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Accounting Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures and affect disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates. The Fund's most significant estimate is the allowance for doubtful accounts.

South Carolina Universal Service Fund
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Revenue Recognition – Telecommunications companies doing business in the State are required to pay to the Fund a fixed monthly amount as determined in accordance with Fund guidelines. It is the Fund's policy to record revenue when the revenue is both measurable and available.

Note 2. Deposits Held by State Treasurer

The deposits of the Fund held by the State Treasurer are under the control of the State Treasurer who, by law, has sole authority for investing State funds. State law requires full collateralization of all State Treasurer balances. The State Treasurer must correct any deficiencies in collateral within seven days.

With respect to investments in the State's internal cash management pool, all of the State Treasurer's investments are insured or registered or are investments for which the securities are held by the State or its agent in the State's name. Information pertaining to carrying amounts, fair value, credit and other risks as required by GASB No. 40, "Deposits and Investments – Risk Disclosures", of the State Treasurer's investments are disclosed in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the State.

Deposits held by the State Treasurer are \$2,309,704 and \$3,101,100 at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Note 3. Income Taxes

These financial statements present the activities of the Fund. The activities of the Fund are tax-exempt since the Fund is a special revenue fund of the State; therefore, not subject to federal or state income taxes or sales, use, gross receipts or other taxes. As such, no provisions for such taxes have been reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

Note 4. Assessments

Identified carriers that are operating in the State provide assessments to the Fund. The SCORS searches publicly available resources to identify carriers operating in the State that are not providing assessments to the Fund. The carriers are assessed based upon the weighted average of their total revenues compared to the total revenues of all telecommunication companies operating in the State. The total assessments for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 were \$28,599,113 and \$28,815,366, respectively.

Note 5. Amounts Paid and Due to Telecommunication Service Providers

Payments to the qualified recipients are made by the State Treasurer's office as directed by the SCORS. The qualified recipients receive payments in order to neutralize the revenue deficits created by mandated decreases in access charges in addition to high cost support as determined by the PSC. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Fund determined that \$28,449,129 and \$28,899,698, respectively, in support payments were due to service providers.

South Carolina Universal Service Fund
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 6. Related Parties

The Fund is administered by the SCORS as set forth by the State of South Carolina Act 175 of 2004. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, the SCORS incurred expenditures/expenses related to administration of the Fund and Lifeline/Linkup outreach in the amounts of \$148,064 and \$181,214, respectively. These amounts are included in general and administrative expenditures/expenses in the accompanying Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance/Statements of Activities.

Note 7. Commitments and Contingencies

Appeals concerning either sizing or requests for additional funds by the Fund were pending before the Richland County Circuit Court (“Circuit Court”) during the period under review. Subsequent to the close of the Fund’s fiscal year, the appeals were dismissed by order of the Circuit Court on September 14, 2016. See subsequent events at Note 8 for additional details.

The Fund has also received notice of claims from telecommunication companies that have filed for bankruptcy protection in various jurisdictions. To date, SCORS has not filed proofs of claim in these bankruptcy cases.

Note 8. Subsequent Events

On January 26, 2016, PSC Order No. 2016-22 determined that wireless voice telecommunications service competes with local voice telecommunications services and required wireless telecommunications carriers to contribute to the Fund.

On May 25, 2016, the Governor of South Carolina signed Act 181 known as the “State Telecom Equity in Funding Act” which provides a formula for the size of the Fund and requires the interim LEC Fund be merged into the Fund. On June 27, 2016, the SCORS filed a petition with the PSC to approve the implementation of Order 2016-22 and Act 181 effective January 1, 2017. The petition also seeks approval to modify the fund year from December through November to a calendar year.

On June 29, 2016, motions were filed with the Circuit Court to dismiss the appeals concerning sizing and additional funds (See commitments and contingencies at Note 7.). These motions were consented to by all parties to the appeals, and by orders issued on September 14, 2016, the motions to dismiss the appeals were granted.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL
CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
Columbia, South Carolina

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and special revenue fund of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (the "Fund"), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 20, 2016.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Fund's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Fund's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Columbia, South Carolina
October 20, 2016

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