



## **EEO/AA POLICY**

### **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY**

Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (HTC) maintains a continuing policy of nondiscrimination in employment. It is our policy to provide equal opportunity and access for all persons, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, or status as a protected veteran, in all phases of the employment process and in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. This policy of nondiscrimination shall include, but not be limited to, the following employment decisions and practices: hiring; promotions; demotions or transfers; layoffs; recalls; terminations; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; selection for training, including apprenticeship; and recruitment or recruitment advertising.

HTC will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against employees or applicants because they have inquired about, discussed, or disclosed their own pay or the pay of another employee or applicant. However, employees who have access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of their essential job functions cannot disclose the pay of other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to compensation information, unless the disclosure is (a) in response to a formal complaint or charge, (b) in furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action, including an investigation conducted by the employer, or (c) consistent with HTC's legal duty to furnish information.

Employees and applicants of HTC will not be subjected to any form of harassment or discrimination for exercising rights protected by, or because of their participation in an investigation or compliance review related to, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998, or any other federal or state nondiscrimination law, rule, or regulation. Such rights include protection against discrimination on the basis of a person's relationship or association with a protected veteran.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any manner as described above, you should notify Wendy McCrackin, Chief Executive-Customer Operations and HR. HTC will continue to direct management personnel to take such action as may be required to prevent behavior prohibited by this policy. All matters will be investigated, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, up to and including termination of employment, if necessary. Retaliation against anyone who complains of or witnesses behavior contrary to this policy is also prohibited.

HTC also maintains affirmative action programs to implement our equal employment opportunity policy for individuals with disabilities and protected veterans. Employees or applicants who wish to review the full narrative portion of HTC's affirmative action appropriate program for individuals with disabilities or protected veteran status may schedule an appointment to do so by contacting Wendy McCrackin during normal business hours.

Carlton Lewis  
Chief Executive Officer