

<p style="text-align: center;">Form 5500</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: large; text-align: center;">2024</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information
 For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)

a single-employer plan a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is: the first return/report the final return/report

an amended return/report a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.

D Check box if filing under: Form 5558 automatic extension the DFVC program

special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

<p>1a Name of plan <u>ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN</u></p>	<p>1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u></p>
<p>2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC</u></p> <p><u>201 N UNION ST.</u> <u>ARLINGTON, VA 22314</u></p>	<p>1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2013</u></p> <p>2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>92-1373067</u></p> <p>2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>571-455-5031</u></p> <p>2d Business code (see instructions) <u>541211</u></p>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2025	DAVID FULCHER
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2025	DAVID FULCHER
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	752
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	328
	6a(2)	956
	6b	88
	6c	0
	6d	1044
	6e	0
	6f	1044
	6g(1)	328
6g(2)	925	
6h	0	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>2</u>
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

<p style="text-align: center;">SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Insurance Information</p> <p>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p> <p>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</p>	<p>OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: large;">2024</p> <hr/> <p>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

<p>A Name of plan ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN</p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</p>	<p>001</p>
<p>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC</p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 92-1373067</p>	

Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
84-0467907	68322	504582-01	16	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

<p>(a) Total amount of commissions paid</p> <p style="color: blue;">0</p>	<p>(b) Total amount of fees paid</p> <p style="color: blue;">0</p>
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information
 Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	262982
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	0

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

e Type of contract: (1) individual policies (2) group deferred annuity
 (3) other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) deposit administration (2) immediate participation guarantee
 (3) guaranteed investment (4) other ▶ **GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT**

b Balance at the end of the previous year **7b** 143403

c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	75607
(2) Dividends and credits.....	7c(2)	0
(3) Interest credited during the year.....	7c(3)	3615
(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	797960
(5) Other (specify below).....	7c(5)	578

▶ **LOAN REPAYMENT**

(6) Total additions **7c(6)** 877760

d Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**) **7d** 1021163

e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	3641
(2) Administration charge made by carrier.....	7e(2)	6
(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	754534
(4) Other (specify below).....	7e(4)	0

(5) Total deductions **7e(5)** 758181

f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)..... **7f** 262982

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information
 If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** Health (other than dental or vision)
- b** Dental
- c** Vision
- d** Life insurance
- e** Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- f** Long-term disability
- g** Supplemental unemployment
- h** Prescription drug
- i** Stop loss (large deductible)
- j** HMO contract
- k** PPO contract
- l** Indemnity contract
- m** Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a	Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)	
	(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)	
	(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)	
	(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)
b	Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	9b(1)	
	(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)	
	(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)
	(4) Claims charged		9b(4)
c	Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --		
	(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)	
	(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)	
	(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)	
	(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)	
	(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)	
	(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	9c(1)(F)	
	(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)	
	(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> credited.)		9c(2)
d	Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)
	(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)
	(3) Other reserves		9d(3)
e	Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a	Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? Yes No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

<p>SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)</p> <p>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</p> <hr/> <p>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</p>	<p>Insurance Information</p> <p>This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).</p> <p>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</p> <p>▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).</p>	<p>OMB No. 1210-0110</p> <hr/> <p>2024</p> <hr/> <p>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</p>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

<p>A Name of plan ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN</p>	<p>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶</p>	<p>001</p>
<p>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC</p>	<p>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 92-1373067</p>	

Part I Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
06-1050034	93629	504582-01	10	01/01/2024	12/31/2024

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

<p>(a) Total amount of commissions paid</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p>	<p>(b) Total amount of fees paid</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p>
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3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

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(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information
 Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	645305

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

- a** State the basis of premium rates ▶

- b** Premiums paid to carrier
- c** Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year
- d** If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.
Specify nature of costs ▶

- e** Type of contract: (1) individual policies (2) group deferred annuity
(3) other (specify) ▶

- f** If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

- a** Type of contract: (1) deposit administration (2) immediate participation guarantee
(3) guaranteed investment (4) other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT

b Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	
c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)			
	7c(2)			
	7c(3)			
	7c(4)			
	7c(5)			
	(6) Total additions			
d Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))			7d	
e Deductions:				
	7e(1)			
	7e(2)			
	7e(3)			
	7e(4)			
(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	
f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d).....			7f	

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information
 If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- a** Health (other than dental or vision)
- b** Dental
- c** Vision
- d** Life insurance
- e** Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- f** Long-term disability
- g** Supplemental unemployment
- h** Prescription drug
- i** Stop loss (large deductible)
- j** HMO contract
- k** PPO contract
- l** Indemnity contract
- m** Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:

a	Premiums: (1) Amount received	9a(1)	
	(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	9a(2)	
	(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	9a(3)	
	(4) Earned ((1) + (2) - (3))		9a(4)
b	Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	9b(1)	
	(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	9b(2)	
	(3) Incurred claims (add (1) and (2))		9b(3)
	(4) Claims charged		9b(4)
c	Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --		
	(A) Commissions	9c(1)(A)	
	(B) Administrative service or other fees	9c(1)(B)	
	(C) Other specific acquisition costs	9c(1)(C)	
	(D) Other expenses	9c(1)(D)	
	(E) Taxes	9c(1)(E)	
	(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	9c(1)(F)	
	(G) Other retention charges	9c(1)(G)	
	(H) Total retention		9c(1)(H)
	(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were <input type="checkbox"/> paid in cash, or <input type="checkbox"/> credited.)		9c(2)
d	Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement		9d(1)
	(2) Claim reserves		9d(2)
	(3) Other reserves		9d(3)
e	Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line 9c(2).)		9e

10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:

a	Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier	10a	
b	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.	10b	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? Yes No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 92-1373067	

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions)... Yes No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES

INC DBA ALLIANT RETIREM
101 PARK AVE 14TH FL
NEWYORK, NY 10178

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13 27	CONTRACT ADMIN	41003	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10262	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY O

8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD
GREENWOOD VILLAGE
COLORADO, CO 80111

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64	RECORDKEEPER	54477	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
ALLIANT INSURANCE SERVICES	13 27	10262

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
EMPOWER ANNUITY INSURANCE 8515 EAST ORCHARD ROAD GREENWOOD VILLAGE COLORADO, CO 80111	TPA ALLOWANCE PAYMENT	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 <hr/> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>001</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>92-1373067</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>INTERNATIONAL GROWTH FUND CL R</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>GREAT GRAY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>26-3783561-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>LARGE CAP GROWTH FUND CLASS R1</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>GREAT GRAY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>82-4435820-375</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>2164916</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>LORD ABBETT SMALL CAP GROWTH TRUST</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>GREAT GRAY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>38-4139856-000</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>MID CAP VALUE FEE CLASS R1</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>GREAT GRAY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>38-4139852-630</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN INNOVATION</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>ALTA TRUST</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>88-1455698-001</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>MID CAP GROWTH FUND FEE CLASS R1</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>GREAT GRAY</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>38-4126247-549</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>FIRST EAGLE SMALL CAP OPPORTUNITY C</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>BENEFIT PLANS ADMIN SERVICES COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>87-6383971-000</u>	d Entity code <u>C</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 92-1373067

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	3090	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		302036
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		30194
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	167888	614584
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		2164916
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		645304
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	11804705	49143959
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		262982
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property.....	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	1f	11975683	53163975
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i		
j Other liabilities.....	1j		71216
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	0	71216
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	11975683	53092759

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers.....	2a(1)(A)	3549877	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)	7398240	
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)	28513171	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		39461288
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities.....	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments.....	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants).....	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E)	30012	
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)	3557	
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		33569
(2) Dividends:			
(A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock.....	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C)	1323148	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		1323148
(3) Rents.....	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:			
(A) Aggregate proceeds.....	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result.....	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	782925	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		97968
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		-9
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		190005
c Other income	2c		-45977
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		41842917

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	633611	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		633611
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	92230	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		92230
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		725841

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		41117076
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: RSM US LLP

(2) EIN: 42-0714325

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1413878
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined
 If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning **01/01/2024** and ending **12/31/2024**

A Name of plan ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 92-1373067	

Part I	Distributions
---------------	----------------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions..... 1 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):
 EIN(s): 84-0467907

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year..... 3

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
----------------	---

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?..... Yes No N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a	
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b	
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?..... Yes No N/A

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?..... Yes No N/A

Part III	Amendments
-----------------	-------------------

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box..... Increase Decrease Both No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
----------------	---

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?..... Yes No

11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?..... Yes No

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)..... Yes No

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?..... Yes No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer _____

b EIN _____ **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer _____

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: Hourly Weekly Unit of production Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14c	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....	16b	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation: _____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703221A.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Financial Report
December 31, 2024

Contents

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Independent Auditor's Report

Plan Administrator
Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan (the Plan), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for 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. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter—Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedules of delinquent participant contributions for the year ended December 31, 2024, and assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2024, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

RSM US LLP

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania
October 15, 2025

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	2024	2023
Assets		
Investments at fair value	\$ 51,954,179	\$ 11,664,391
Investments at contract value	262,982	143,404
	52,217,161	11,807,795
Receivables:		
Participants' contributions	30,194	36,849
Employer's contributions	302,036	159,952
Notes receivable from participants	614,584	167,888
	946,814	364,689
Total assets	53,163,975	12,172,484
Liabilities		
Excess contributions payable	71,216	-
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 53,092,759	\$ 12,172,484

See notes to financial statements.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Additions:	
Investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 1,024,912
Interest and dividends	1,326,705
	<u>2,351,617</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>30,012</u>
Contributions:	
Participants	7,361,391
Employer	3,389,925
Rollovers	28,513,171
	<u>39,264,487</u>
Total additions	<u>41,646,116</u>
Deductions:	
Benefits paid to participants	633,611
Administrative expenses	92,230
Total deductions	<u>725,841</u>
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	40,920,275
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	<u>12,172,484</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 53,092,759</u>

See notes to financial statements.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Plan Description

The following description of Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General: The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of Ascend Partner Services LLC (the Plan Sponsor or the Company) who have three months of service and are age 21 or older except for: (1) collectively bargained employees; and (2) nonresident aliens with no U.S. source of income. The Plan Sponsor is responsible for oversight of the Plan. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions: Participants may contribute a portion of pre-tax annual compensation, as defined in the Plan. Participants are also permitted to contribute Roth after-tax deferrals to the Plan. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or contribution plans (rollovers). The Plan Sponsor may make discretionary matching contributions to the Plan. The Plan Sponsor's contribution percentage was 100% of the first 3% of compensation and 50% of the next 2% of compensation during 2024. The Plan Sponsor may also make discretionary profit-sharing contributions to the Plan. There were no profit-sharing contributions for the year ended December 31, 2024. Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Code (IRC) limitations.

Investment options: Upon enrollment in the Plan, a participant may direct all contributions to selected investments as made available and determined by the Plan Administrator in 1% increments. Participants may change their investment options daily.

Participant accounts: Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, rollover, and the Sponsor's matching contribution, as well as allocations of any profit-sharing contribution and plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant compensation, account balances or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting: Participants are vested immediately in all contributions plus actual earnings thereon.

Payment of benefits: The Plan permits withdrawals when a participant terminates employment, reaches retirement age, or becomes disabled or deceased. In-service withdrawals are also permitted for certain financial hardships or when a participant attains age 59½. Benefits are payable in lump-sum payments with certain exceptions allowed.

Notes receivable from participants: Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of 50% of their vested account balance or \$50,000. Loan terms range up to five years or over a reasonable period of time for the purchase of a participant's primary residence, as established by the Plan Administrator at the time of the loan. The loans are collateralized by the vested balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined by the Plan Administrator. These rates range from 4.25% to 10.5% on loans outstanding at December 31, 2024, and the loans mature through 2052. Principal and interest are paid ratably through periodic payroll deductions.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting: The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits and changes therein. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment valuation and income recognition: Investments are reported at fair value (except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, which are reported at contract value). Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the trustee. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes receivable from participants: Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred.

Contributions: Contributions from Plan participants and the matching contributions from the employer are recorded in the year in which the employee contributions are withheld from compensation. Participant contributions in excess of amounts allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are recorded as a liability with a corresponding reduction in contributions.

Payment of benefits: Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses: Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Plan Sponsor and are excluded from these financial statements. Administrative expenses include fees related to the administration of notes receivable that are charged directly to the participant's account and certain recordkeeping fees paid by the Plan. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) of fair value of investments.

Subsequent events: The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through October 15, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 3. Information Certified by Empower Trust Company, LLC

The following is a summary of the Plan's asset information as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and for the year ended December 31, 2024, included throughout the Plan's financial statements and ERISA-required supplemental schedules, obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate by Empower Trust Company, LLC, a qualified institution:

	2024	2023
Investments at fair value:		
Registered investment companies	\$ 49,143,959	\$ 10,849,555
Collective trust fund	2,164,916	814,836
Pooled separate account	645,304	-
	<u>\$ 51,954,179</u>	<u>\$ 11,664,391</u>
Investment at contract value:		
Guaranteed investment contract	<u>\$ 262,982</u>	<u>\$ 143,404</u>
Notes receivable from participants	<u>\$ 614,584</u>	<u>\$ 167,888</u>

Empower Trust Company, LLC also certified to the completeness and accuracy of \$1,024,912 of net appreciation in fair value of investments, \$1,326,705 of interest and dividends and \$30,012 of interest income on notes receivable from participants related to the aforementioned assets for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Registered investment companies (mutual funds): Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value (NAV) and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Pooled separate accounts: Valued at the NAV of shares in each account held by the Plan at year end. The net asset value is not a publicly-quoted price in an active market. The NAV, as provided by the insurance carrier, is used as a practical expedient to estimating fair value.

Collective trust fund: Valued at the NAV of shares in each account held by the Plan at year end. The net asset value is not a public-quoted price in an active market. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based upon the fair value of the underlying investments comprising the trust less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Description	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Registered investment companies	\$ 49,143,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,143,959
Investments measured at NAV (a)				2,810,220
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 51,954,179</u>

Description	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Registered investment companies	\$ 10,849,555	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,849,555
Investments measured at NAV (a)				814,836
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 11,664,391</u>

- (a) In accordance with the Fair Value Measurements topic, certain investments that were measured at NAV per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

The following table summarizes investments for which fair value is estimated using NAV per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

Investment	Fair Value		Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
	2024	2023			
Pooled separate account:					
Core Plus Bond / PGIM Fund	\$ 645,304	\$ -	None	Immediate	None
Collective trust fund:					
Large Cap Growth Fund Class R1	2,164,916	-	None	Immediate	None
American Innovation	-	536,731	None	Immediate	None
First Eagle Small Cap Opportunity CIT	-	30,569	None	Immediate	None
International Growth Fund CL R	-	75,222	None	Immediate	None
Lord Abbett Small Cap Growth Trust II LH	-	84,755	None	Immediate	None
Mid Cap Growth Fund Fee Class R1	-	59,164	None	Immediate	None
Mid Cap Value Fee Class R1	-	28,395	None	Immediate	None
Total	<u>\$ 2,810,220</u>	<u>\$ 814,836</u>			

The Plan evaluates the significance of transfers between levels based upon the nature of the investment and size of the transfer relative to total net assets available for benefits.

Note 5. Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts

The Plan has a traditional, fully benefit-responsive guaranteed investment contract with Great-West Life and Annuity Insurance Company (Great-West) that is reported at contract value. National maintains the contributions in a general account. The account is credited with contributions, earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. The contract issuer is contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan. The crediting interest rate is based on a formula agreed upon with the issuer, but it may not be less than 0%. Such interest rates are reviewed on a quarterly basis for resetting. The contract cannot be terminated before the scheduled maturity date.

The Plan's ability to receive amounts due in accordance with fully benefit-responsive investment contract is dependent on the third-party issuer's ability to meet its financial obligations. The issuer's ability to meet its contractual obligations may be affected by future economic and regulatory developments.

Certain events might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuer. These events may be different under each contract. Examples of such events include the following:

1. The Plan's failure to qualify under Section 401(a) of the IRC or the failure of the trust to be tax-exempt under Section 501(a) of the IRC
2. Premature termination of the contracts
3. Plan termination or merger
4. Changes to the Plan's prohibition on competing investment options
5. Bankruptcy of the plan sponsor or other plan sponsor events (for example, divestitures or spinoffs of a subsidiary) that significantly affect the Plan's normal operations

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 5. Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts (Continued)

No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the contract issuers and that also would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

In addition, certain events allow the issuer to terminate the contract with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value. Those events may be different under each contract. Examples of such events include the following:

1. An uncured violation of the Plan's investment guidelines
2. A breach of material obligation under the contract
3. A material misrepresentation
4. A material amendment to the agreement without the consent of the issuer

Note 6. Related-Party and Party-in-Interest Transactions

Empower Trust Company, LLC is the trustee of the Plan; therefore, transactions with the trustee qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

Alliant Insurances Services, Inc. performs plan advisory services and Alliant Retirement Services is the third-party administrator; therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in interest transactions.

The Plan Sponsor also paid certain administrative expenses of the Plan. Certain employees of the Plan Sponsor provide administrative services to the Plan. These employees are not paid from the Plan for their services.

Note 7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Sponsor has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

Note 8. Tax Status

The Plan has adopted a non-standardized form of a pre-approved plan sponsored by Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. The pre-approved plan has received an opinion letter from the IRS as to the pre-approved plan's qualified status. The pre-approved plan opinion letter has been relied upon by this Plan. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is designed and is being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of Internal Revenue Code.

U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 10. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to net assets per the Form 5500 as of December 31:

	2024	2023
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 53,092,759	\$ 12,172,484
Differences in:		
Employer contributions receivable	-	(159,952)
Employee contributions receivable	-	(36,849)
Investments-participant loans	614,584	167,888
Receivables-notes from participants	(614,584)	(167,888)
Net assets per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 53,092,759</u>	<u>\$ 11,975,683</u>

The following is a reconciliation of net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to net income per the Form 5500:

Net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 40,920,275
Differences in:	
Employer contributions	159,952
Employee contributions	36,849
Net income per the Form 5500	<u>\$ 41,117,076</u>

Note 11. Nonexempt Transactions

During 2024 and 2023, the Sponsor inadvertently failed to deposit \$1,342,520 and 71,358, respectively, of participant contributions and loan repayments within the required time frame as stated by the DOL regulations. The Sponsor intends to deposit lost interest to correct this failure in 2025.

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

**Schedule H, Line 4a—Schedule of Delinquent Participant Contributions
Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Employer Identification Number: 92-1373067

Plan Number: 001

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Totals That Constitute Non-Exempt Prohibited Transactions				
	Check Here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are Included [X]	Contributions not Corrected	Contributions Corrected Outside VFCP	Contributions Pending Correction in VFCP	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
2024	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 1,342,520	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2023	<input type="checkbox"/>	71,358	-	-	-

Ascend Partner Services LLC 401(k) Plan

**Schedule H, Line 4i—Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024**

Employer Identification Number: 92-1373067
Plan Number: 001

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party		Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, Maturity Value	Cost**	Current Value
Mutual funds, registered investment companies:				
Capital Group		American Funds EuroPacific Gr R5	\$	227,073
Capital Group		American Funds New World R6		265,685
Dimensional Fund Advisors		DFA Inflation-Protected Securities I		493,685
Dimensional Fund Advisors		DFA Real Estate Securities I		253,787
Dimensional Fund Advisors		DFA U.S. Vector Equity I		117,777
Dimensional Fund Advisors		DFA US Targeted Value I		182,162
Fidelity Investments		Fidelity 500 Index		9,755,620
Fidelity Investments		Fidelity International Index		1,163,171
Fidelity Investments		Fidelity Mid Cap Growth Index		46,783
Fidelity Investments		Fidelity Mid Cap Index		2,678,558
Fidelity Investments		Fidelity Small Cap Index		1,315,942
MFS Investment Management		MFS Mid Cap Growth R6		452,005
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2010 R6		29,397
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2015 R6		848,297
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2020 R6		793,214
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2025 R6		3,461,298
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2030 R6		6,145,111
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2035 R6		2,692,294
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2040 R6		3,352,736
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2045 R6		2,992,245
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2050 R6		3,720,048
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2055 R6		3,211,186
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index 2060 R6		2,638,213
Nuveen		Nuveen Lifecycle Index Retirement Inc R6		68,740
PGIM Investments		PGIM High-Yield R6		218,402
PIMCO		PIMCO Int Bond (USD-Hedged) Instl		215,634
Vanguard		Vanguard Equity-Income Adm		1,370,883
Vanguard		Vanguard Explorer Adm		434,013
				<u>49,143,959</u>
Guaranteed investment contract:				
Great-West Life and Annuity Insurance Company		Guaranteed Interest Fund		262,982
Pooled separate account:				
PGIM, Inc.		Core Plus Bond / PGIM Fund		645,304
Collective trust fund:				
ClearBridge Investments, LLC		Large Cap Growth Fund Class R1		2,164,916
Participant loans				
* Participants		4.25% to 10.5%; maturing through 2052		614,584
				<u>\$ 52,831,745</u>

* Represents party-in-interest.

** All investments are participant directed; therefore, cost information has not been presented.

The above information has been certified by Empower Trust Company, LLC, the trustee, as complete and accurate.

Schedule H, line 4i
Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)

For the plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

Name of plan

ASCEND PARTNER SERVICES, LLC 401(K) PLAN

Employer Identification Number

92-1373067

Three-digit
plan number

▶ 001

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	EMPOWER	AMERICAN FUNDS EUROPACIFIC GR		227,073
*	EMPOWER	AMERICAN FUNDS NEW WORLD R6		265,685
*	EMPOWER	DFA INFLATION-PROTECTED SECURI		493,685
*	EMPOWER	DFA REAL ESTATE SECURITIES I		253,787
*	EMPOWER	DFA U.S. VECTOR EQUITY I		117,777
*	EMPOWER	DFA US TARGETED VALUE I		182,162
*	EMPOWER	FIDELITY 500 INDEX		9,755,620
*	EMPOWER	FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL INDEX		1,163,171
*	EMPOWER	FIDELITY MID CAP GROWTH INDEX		46,783
*	EMPOWER	FIDELITY MID CAP INDEX		2,678,558
*	EMPOWER	FIDELITY SMALL CAP INDEX		1,315,942
*	EMPOWER	MFS MID CAP GROWTH R6		452,005
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2010 R6		29,398
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2015 R6		848,297
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2020 R6		793,214
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2025 R6		3,461,298
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2030 R6		6,145,111
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2035 R6		2,692,294
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2040 R6		3,352,736
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2045 R6		2,992,245
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2050 R6		3,720,048
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2055 R6		3,211,186
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX 2060 R6		2,638,213
*	EMPOWER	NUVEEN LIFECYCLE INDEX RETIREM		68,740
*	EMPOWER	PGIM HIGH-YIELD R6		218,402
*	EMPOWER	PIMCO INT BOND (USD-HEDGED) IN		215,634
*	EMPOWER	PUTNAM INCOME R6		0
*	EMPOWER	VANGUARD EQUITY-INCOME ADM		1,370,883
*	EMPOWER	VANGUARD EXPLORER ADM		434,012
*	EMPOWER	GUARANTEED INTEREST FUND		258,780
*	EMPOWER	CORE PLUS BOND / PGIM FUND		645,305
*	EMPOWER	AMERICAN INNOVATION		0
*	EMPOWER	FIRST EAGLE SMALL CAP OPPORTUN		0
*	EMPOWER	INTERNATIONAL GROWTH FUND CL R		0
*	EMPOWER	LARGE CAP GROWTH FUND CLASS R1		2,164,916
*	EMPOWER	LORD ABBETT SMALL CAP GROWTH T		0
*	EMPOWER	MID CAP GROWTH FUND FEE CLASS		0
*	EMPOWER	MID CAP VALUE FEE CLASS R1		0
*	EMPOWER	LOANS		614,584

