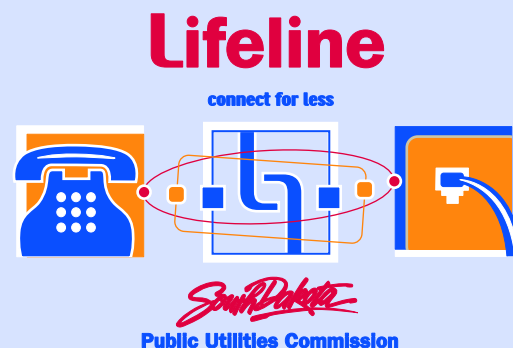




The Lifeline assistance program makes affordable telephone service available to qualifying South Dakotans.

Even if you don't qualify for Lifeline, chances are you know someone who does. Think about your family, neighbors and friends. Receiving a discount on local phone service might make a big difference in their life, especially if they are managing expenses on a limited income. Having affordable telephone service will give them – and you – peace of mind by knowing they can stay connected with a doctor's office, their child's school or emergency assistance when needed. Share this information about Lifeline.

Telephone Assistance Program



100 copies of this brochure were printed by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission at a cost of .17 each

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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Staying connected to family, friends and businesses is an important part of life.

Having access to affordable telephone service for your home makes staying connected easier. You may qualify for a special program – Lifeline – that helps reduce the cost of telephone service so you can connect for less.

- **Lifeline** helps you save up to \$9.25 on your monthly phone bill. The discount applies to basic local telephone service, wireline or wireless, on one line per household. However, not all telephone providers offer the Lifeline discount.

You may also be able to sign up for toll blocking or toll limitation service that either blocks or limits long-distance calls from your phone.

If you meet the requirements listed to the right, contact your local telephone company to apply for Lifeline. You can also contact the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for information by calling 1-800-332-1782 or going to www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline on the Internet.

Lifeline has eligibility requirements. You may qualify if you, one or more of your dependents, or your household participates in any of the following programs:

- Medicaid (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program



You may also qualify if your household income is no more than 135 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines (see guidelines at www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline).

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility to your telephone company.

Important Information

- Lifeline is a government assistance program and the service is non-transferable.
- Not all telephone providers in South Dakota offer the Lifeline discount.
- Lifeline is available on only one line per household. A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals living together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. A household may include related and unrelated persons.
- The Lifeline discount cannot be applied to past due telephone bills.
- Once you are on Lifeline, you may be required to re-certify your continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time. If you do not re-certify, the phone company is required to stop the discounts.
- It can take up to two months for the discount to show up on your bill as a credit. You must pay the bill until that time.
- You must notify the telephone company when you no longer qualify for the Lifeline program.

