



BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

101 N. THIRD STREET • BERESFORD, SD 57004-1796

Phone (605) 763-2008 • FAX (605) 763-7112

E-mail phone @ bmtc.net • URL <http://www.bmtc.net>

June 10, 2005

Pam Bonrud, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED

JUN 14 2005

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

In response to South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) Docket TC 05-058, Beresford Municipal Telephone Company (Beresford) is enclosing the following:

- a revised Lifeline/Link Up application form reflecting the additional eligibility criteria established in FCC 04-87, released April 29, 2004;
- a copy of Beresford's promotional materials;
- a copy of Beresford's latest Lifeline/Link Up advertisement;
- documents pertaining to Beresford's income-based criterion certification procedures; and
- a copy of the verification letter sent to a random sample of Beresford's Lifeline participants.

Beresford advertises Lifeline/Link Up annually in the Beresford Republic. In addition, brochures are available in the front office and Lifeline/Link Up details are posted on Beresford's website.

We are sorry to be late with our responses to your request for information. Please call our office with any questions regarding the enclosed Lifeline/Link Up materials or Beresford's Lifeline/Link Up procedures.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Hansen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Hansen
General Manager

Enclosures

BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.

**Lifeline/Link Up
Income-Based Criterion
Certification of Documentation Process**

I, Todd Hansen, hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that Beresford Municipal Telephone Company has in place Lifeline/Link Up income-based criterion documentation procedures. I further certify, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my knowledge, Beresford Municipal Telephone Company was presented with and reviewed appropriate income-based criterion documentation before implementing Lifeline/Link Up for applicants qualifying under this criterion.

Todd Hansen
Signature

General Manager
Title

4-29-05
Date

**BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.
Lifeline/Link Up**

Income-Based Criterion Documentation Process

1. Customer completes Lifeline/Link Up Application
2. Customer completes Self-Certification for Applicants Qualifying Under Income-Based Criterion
3. Customer presents income documentation for all household members
4. Business office representative verifies documentation
5. Business office representative documents verification utilizing verification form
6. Business office representative files:
 - a) Lifeline/Link Up Application
 - b) Customer self-certification document
 - c) Business office verification document

**BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.
LIFELINE/LINK UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION**
(Please Print)

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Apt. No.

City: _____
City State Zip Code

Social Security Number: _____

Telephone Number (if existing service): _____
Can be Reached Number (if new service): _____
(Area code + 7 digit number)

I am applying for: _____ Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)
_____ Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)

Note: Telephone service **MUST** be in applicant's name.

I qualify for Lifeline/Link Up assistance because (check all that apply):

- _____ I participate in Medicaid.
- _____ I participate in the Food Stamps program.
- _____ I receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- _____ I receive Federal Public Housing Assistance.
- _____ I receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance.
- _____ I participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program.
- _____ I participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program.
- _____ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(Documentation required showing participation in any of the above programs)

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE. I understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

Signature

Date

NOTICE

TO ALL BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY CUSTOMERS

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide two federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

- The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify
- The Link Up program provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Subscribers must have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

Medicaid	Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Food Stamps	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Housing Assistance	Temporary Aid to Needy Families
National School Lunch free lunch program	

WHAT DO THE PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a waiver of the \$6.50 monthly Subscriber Line Charge and an additional credit of \$1.75 each month on the basic service portion of the telephone bill. The waiver and credit apply on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers also may receive blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line at no charge.

Link Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of applicable charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. Link Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside the home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. In addition, if you qualify because your household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, documentation is required. More details on this documentation requirement and application forms are available at our office at: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company; 101 North 3rd Street; Beresford, SD 57004.

COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

When you no longer are eligible to participate in any of the above assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline or Link Up. You are obligated by law to notify Beresford Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline and Link Up.

This is a sample of the article run in Beresford Republic Newspaper annually.

Patricia Johnson
BMTC CSR

Beresford Municipal Telephone Customers

Lifeline/Linkup Program

Individuals and families who reside in Beresford Municipal Telephone service area and are receiving assistance benefits or have a low or fixed income may be eligible to receive discounted telephone installation and/or service. Please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone's customer support at (605) 763-2500 or (605) 763-2008 for information on the Lifeline/Linkup program.

BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.

Lifeline/Link Up

Income-Based Criterion Documentation

Business Office Verification Document

Number of Household Members _____

Household Income _____

Income Documents	Household Member #1	Household Member #2	Household Member #3	Household Member #4	Household Member #5
prior year's federal tax return					
prior year's state tax return					
employer's current income statement					
paycheck stubs (3 months)					
Social Security statement (3 months)					
pension statement (3 months)					
veteran's benefits statement (3 months)					
Other (specify)					

Business Office Representative

Date

2005 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$12,920	\$16,133	\$14,864
2	17,321	21,641	19,926
3	21,722	27,149	24,989
4	26,123	32,657	30,051
5	30,524	38,165	35,114
6	34,925	43,673	40,176
7	39,326	49,181	45,239
8	43,727	54,689	50,301
For each additional person, add	4,401	5,508	5,063

**BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE CO.
SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK UP APPLICANTS
QUALIFYING UNDER INCOME-BASED CRITERION**

I, _____, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Link Up assistance based on my household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. I further certify under penalty of perjury that there are _____ members of my household and that the supporting income documentation presented to my telecommunications provider accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

101 N. THIRD STREET • BERESFORD, SD 57004-1796

Phone (605) 763-2008 • FAX (605) 763-7112

E-mail phone @ bmtc.net • URL <http://www.bmtc.net>

May 4, 2005

Dear Customer:

You currently participate in Beresford Municipal Telephone Company's Lifeline assistance program. Federal Communications Commission guidelines require telephone companies like ours to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customers' continued eligibility.

Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF); or the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance. If you are still eligible for Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application and provide supporting documentation (such as a copy of your Medicaid card) to us **as soon as possible** but no later than July 5th.

Documentation of income eligibility includes a customer's prior year's state or federal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, or other such official documents. If your documentation does not cover an entire year please provide three consecutive month's worth of the same type of document.

Please note: income is all income actually received by all members of the household. Income includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker's compensation benefits, gifts and lottery winnings. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances and irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing.

If you qualify based on household income or participation in any of the above listed programs. Please come to our office at City Hall, 101 N. 3rd Street, Beresford, with the required documentation or if you prefer you may mail the application and documentation back to us in the enclosed return envelope.

Please feel free to call us at 763-2500 or 763-2008 with any questions you may have regarding the application or the Lifeline/Link Up programs.

Sincerely,

BMTc

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patti Johnson".

Patti Johnson / Beth Rasmussen

Enclosures