



5001 West 41st Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106

Pam Bonrud
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED

MAY 19 2005

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

RE: DOCKET TC05-058

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

Please find enclosed Midcontinent Communications' response to Commission's request for ETC carriers to provide information on our Lifeline program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Lohnes", is written over a light gray, textured background that resembles a stylized mountain range.

Mary Lohnes
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Midcontinent Communications
5001 W 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
(605) 357-5459

Enclosures

Over Fifty ⁵⁰ Years of Service

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW OF)
IMPLEMENTATION OF FCC REQUIREMENTS)
FOR LIFELINE AND LINK-UP PROGRAMS)
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL)
OUTREACH EFFORTS)

DOCKET TC05-058

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MAY 19 2005

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

On April 15, 2005, the Public Utility Commission (Commission) ordered this docket opened to review how ETCs are implementing the FCC's new eligibility, certification, and verification requirements. As part of this review the Commission has required ETCs in South Dakota submit to the Commission the following:

- (1) the ETC's lifeline and link-up forms and promotional material
- (2) a description of how the ETC advertises lifeline and link-up, including the form of advertisement and how often it advertises
- (3) how the ETC is implementing the new certification procedures
- (4) how the ETC is implementing the new verification procedures

Following is Midcontinent Communications' response.

- (1) Exhibit A are forms and promotional material
- (2) Lifeline information and application forms are available on Midcontinent's webpage, www.midcocomm.com
Midcontinent's product catalogue (newest version coming out in June 2005) includes lifeline information, Midcontinent also includes a notice in our customer bills twice a year.
- (3) Midcontinent's Lifeline / Link-Up form is modeled from the Minnesota PUC's form which includes the qualifying programs and request for proof. The form also requires the signature and social security number of the applicant. See Exhibit A.
- (4) Midcontinent's plan for verification of continued eligibility will include a random sampling of customers receiving Lifeline discounts by way of letter and requested documented proof. Exhibit B.

Respectfully Submitted


Mary Lohnes

Regulatory Affairs Manager
Midcontinent Communications
5001 W 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
(605) 357-5459



Our Customer Service Personnel can assist you 24 hours a day seven days a week. For helpful assistance, call 1-800-888-1300!

Many of our Guides are in Adobe PDF format. You may click on the Adobe logo to download a FREE Adobe Reader so you may view our guides

Guides and Forms

H

Your Adobe Reader default view may display some forms in varied sizes. Adjust your view settings in Adobe Reader, if necessary.

Reading Your NEW Billing Statement

Whether you subscribe to one service or multiple services, Midcontinent Communications billing statements are designed for your convenience.

Automatic Bill Paying

Bill paying with automatic checking or savings account transactions are easy, accurate and convenient. This PDF application form can be printed, filled in, signed and mailed to the address indicated so you may be activated for this service.

Annual Notice To Customers

A helpful publication for questions you might have regarding your Midcontinent Communications cable television service. Some topics include Billing Policies and Procedures, Installation and Maintenance Policies, Privacy Protection, and Customer Concerns.

DVR (Digital Video Recorder)

Every guide you need to install and operate your DVR can be found at this link. The convenient pull-down menu allows you to retrieve the information you need with just a few simple clicks. Guides include: DVR Installation, i-Guide navigation/recording, Remote Control operation.

Digital Cable i-Guide (1.5mb)

This guide will help you get acquainted with your digital cable service. All DCT receivers use the i-Guide. Not all DCT models can show the picture-in-picture as shown in the i-Guide User's Guide.

Remote Control User's Guide

Digital remote controls have been designed to control most TV sets, your digital receiver, VCR or auxiliary equipment like DVD players. Remote control models vary from location to location. Click on the model you have to download the manual for your remote control. [DRC-400](#), [UR4-DCT](#), [UR5-MDVR](#)

DCT User's Guide

A complete guide to setting up your DCT can be found here. Your DCT will have a model number. Click on the model you have [2000](#), [2500](#), [6200](#), [6200HD](#), [6208](#), [6412](#), [DVR](#) for the corresponding PDF covering just about anything you might need to know about setting up your digital receiver.

HDTV Accessory Connections

A quick start guide for connecting audio and video devices to your HDTV Digital Receiver.

MidcoNet Subscriber Agreement

When subscribing to our high speed Internet service, you agree to these terms.

MidcoNet User's Guide

This comprehensive guide will help answer questions about our high speed internet service and give you tips on where to find what you need on the internet.

[Telephone User's Guide](#) (Sioux Falls' version.[Click here.](#))

For more specific information about the features of your service and how to use them, contact our customer service center.

Link-Up America & Lifeline Assistance (applications by state: [MN](#), [ND](#), [SD](#))

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with up to a 50% connection charge reduction for basic home telephone service. Deferred payments of connection charges, without interest, can also be arranged.

Lifeline Assistance provides eligible subscribers a minimum amount per month toward basic home telephone service. Lifeline subscribers may receive long distance blocking on their telephone line at no charge.

["Do Not Call" Brochure](#)

Information on how you can register on the state and national "Do Not Call" lists and receive fewer telemarketing calls.

[Employment Application](#)

A PDF file for you to print, fill-in, sign and mail. Mail to the contact on the job posting or mail to your nearest Midcontinent Communications' Service Center.

[Home](#) | [Cable TV](#) | [Internet](#) | [Telephone](#) | [Site Map](#) | [About Us](#) | [Policies](#)

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Qualifications & Instructions

People who are currently participating in at least one of the following programs have an annual income below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline can qualify for Link-Up America and Lifeline Assistance programs.

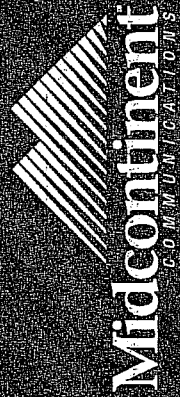
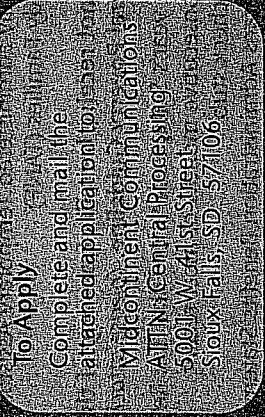
- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Low-Income Energy Assistance

For persons living on or near a reservation:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (only those meeting its income qualifying standard)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

(See inside for a complete list of qualifying programs)

Midcontinent Communications
 5001 W. 41st Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57106
 1-800-888-1300
 www.midcomm.com



connecting you to the future

MMCP-LinkUp 0605

Exhibit A

Link-Up America

& Lifeline Assistance Programs



connecting you to the future

Link-Up/Lifeline Assistance Application

(please print)

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Check the box that best describes where you live: I live on a reservation I do not live on a reservation.

Telephone Number _____ Telephone Number _____
(If existing service and in your name) (Where you can be reached)

Telephone Company _____ No. of people living in your household: _____

1. I receive benefits from the following program(s): (check all that apply and attach proof)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid/Medical Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Support (food stamps) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Public Housing or Section 8 Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Administered Head Start (for those meeting income qualifying standard) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National School Free Lunch Program | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | |

2. I do not receive benefits from any of the programs listed above BUT my income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guideline. (please attach one of the documents below if you did not check any boxes in #1.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last year's State, Federal or Tribal Tax Return | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 consecutive months of most recent paycheck stub | <input type="checkbox"/> Current annual income statement from employer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Administration Benefits Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Benefits Statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement/Pension Benefits Statement |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce Decree |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer participate in any of the above qualifying programs or my income rises above 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true, I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet one of the criteria above to receive telephone service discounts on my home telephone line.

Applicant Signature _____

Social Security Number _____

Date _____

I am an "Authorized Representative" for this applicant and am submitting this form on behalf of this customer. I am willing to assist this applicant in seeking telephone service discounts.

Print "Authorized Representative" Name _____

Day Phone Number _____

Date _____

Link-Up America

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with up to a 50% connection charge reduction (up to \$30) for basic home telephone service.

Deferred payments of connection charges, without interest, can also be arranged.

Lifeline Assistance

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers a minimum of \$6.75 per month for basic home telephone service.

Lifeline subscribers may receive long distance blocking on their telephone line at no charge.

To Apply, complete and mail this application to:

Midcontinent Communications
ATTN: Central Processing
5001 W. 41st Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57106





5001 West 41st Street
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57106

May 17, 2005

RE: Lifeline Eligibility

Dear Valued Midcontinent Communications Customer:

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) recently mandated that telecommunication carriers offering Lifeline support must verify eligibility of those consumers on the Lifeline program.

Enclosed is a new application form that you must complete, provide document of proof, and sign the form. This must be returned to Midcontinent no later than June 8, 2005 for you to remain on the Lifeline program.

Please feel free to contact customer service at 1-800-888-1300 with questions.

Midcontinent takes this opportunity to thank you for your business and look forward to providing you with the finest state-of-the-art telecommunications network.

Sincerely,

Midcontinent Communications