

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 1, 2009**

Company: Tri-County Telcom, Inc.

Address: 330 S. Nebraska St.  
P.O. Box 630  
Salem, SD 57058

Telephone number: (605)425-2238

Company contact: Bryan K. Roth

Study Area Code: 391682

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached advertisement(s).)
  
- Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.\* (See attached letter.)
  
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.
  
- Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.  
([www.triotel.net](http://www.triotel.net))
  
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
  
- Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Required

**Low Income Assistance  
Available for Telephone Service**



If you receive assistance from one of the following programs, you can qualify for Link-up and/or Lifeline Assistance for your telephone service.

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Income below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- National Free School Lunch Program

For further details, contact Tri-County  
Telcom, Inc. at (605) 425-2238 or 611.

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
County of Hanson ) SS

I, Terry Janssen

certify that the attached printed Notice was taken

from the Emery Enterprise

printed and published in Emery

County of Hanson and

state of South Dakota. The notice was published

in the newspaper on the following two dates:

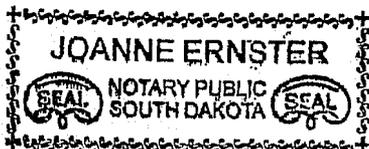
3-19-09

Cost of Printing 30.10

Terry Janssen  
(Signature)

Publisher  
(Title)

3-27-09 Joanne Ernster  
(Date Signed)



Exp 8-16-12

PUBLIC NOTICE

Discount on Telephone Service Available

Discounts on new telephone connect charges and telephone service monthly charges are available through the link-up program and the lifeline program. The link-up program provides a discount on hook-up fees when installing new telephone service. The lifeline program provides a monthly discount on your local service telephone bill. If you receive assistance from one of the following programs, you can qualify for link-up and/or lifeline assistance for your telephone service.

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Income below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- National Free School Lunch Program

For more information about the link-up or lifeline programs please call Tri-County Telcom, Inc. at 425-2238, or 611.

Important Notice Regarding the

DTV Transition

The nationwide switch to digital television broadcasting will be complete on June 12, 2009, but your local television stations may switch sooner. After the switch, analog only television sets that receive TV programming through an antenna will need a converter box to continue to receive over-the-air TV. Watch your local stations to find out when they will turn off their analog signal and switch to digital-only broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products.

Information about the DTV transition is available from your local television stations, [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov), 1-888-CALL-FCC (TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC) or through Tri-County Telcom, Inc. at 605-425-2238 or [www.tricotelnet.com](http://www.tricotelnet.com) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009 (TTY: 1-877-530-2634) for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.



**McCook Cooperative  
Telephone Company**

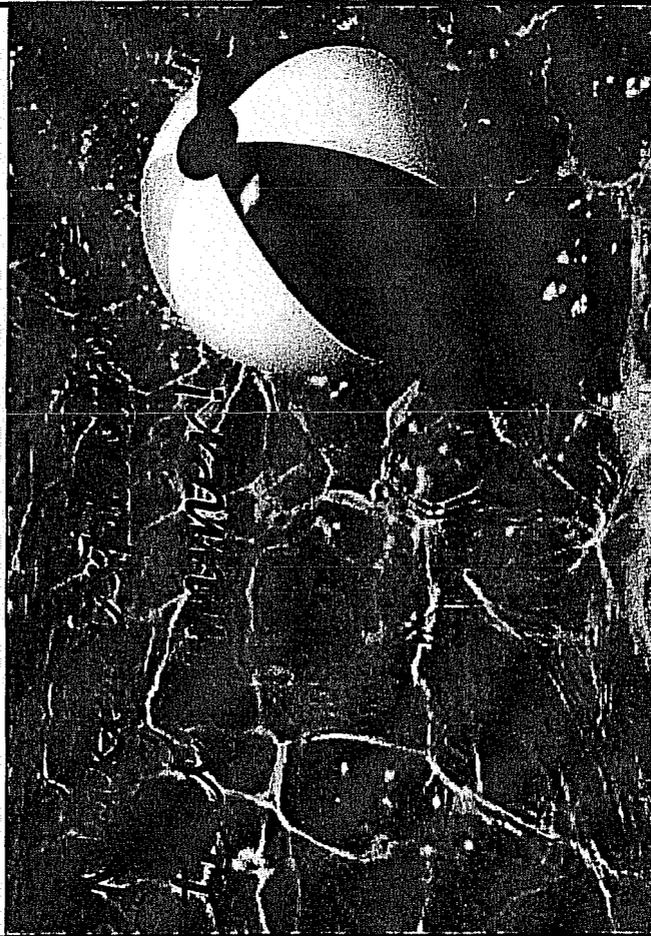
*Coming to you...*

*...Down the wire*

Quarterly Newsletter for the customers of McCook Cooperative Telephone Company & Tri-County Telcom, Inc.

Volume 8 Issue 2 Summer 2008

[www.triotel.net](http://www.triotel.net)



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**Link-up and Lifeline Programs**

The link-up program provides a discount on connection charges when installing new telephone service. The lifeline program provides a monthly discount on your local service telephone bill. If you receive assistance from one of the following programs, you can qualify for Link-up and/or Lifeline Assistance for your telephone service.

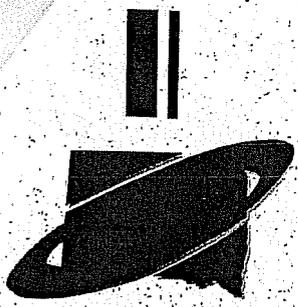
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Income below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- National Free School Lunch Program

For future details, please call (605)425-2238 or 611.

McCook Cooperative Telephone Company  
P.O. Box 630  
Salem, SD 57058

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SALEM SD  
PERMIT NO 17





# Tri-County Telcom, Inc.

330 S. Nebraska P.O. Box 630 Salem, SD 57058

## Notice to Tri-County Telcom, Inc. Customers

**Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service** support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. **Note:** Telecommunications carriers cannot charge a Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the local service portion of their telephone bill.

### What type of discount is available?

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$8.25 per month in discounts.

**Link Up** reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

**Toll Limitation Service (TLS)** support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

### How do I know if I am eligible?

An individual is eligible for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid (NOT MEDICARE)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:

### 2008 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	\$14,040	\$17,550	\$16,146
2	\$18,900	\$23,625	\$21,735
3	\$23,760	\$29,700	\$27,324
4	\$28,620	\$35,775	\$32,913
5	\$33,480	\$41,850	\$38,502
6	\$38,340	\$47,925	\$44,091
7	\$43,200	\$54,000	\$49,680
8	\$48,060	\$60,075	\$55,269
For each additional person, add	\$4,860	\$6,075	\$5,589

### How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support discounts?

To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discount please call our office at 605-425-2238, email [heatherk@triotel.net](mailto:heatherk@triotel.net), or stop by at 330 S. Nebraska St. in Salem, SD.

# 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines



## 100% \*

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,400	\$13,000	\$11,960
2	\$14,000	\$17,500	\$16,100
3	\$17,600	\$22,000	\$20,240
4	\$21,200	\$26,500	\$24,380
5	\$24,800	\$31,000	\$28,520
6	\$28,400	\$35,500	\$32,660
7	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$36,800
8	\$35,600	\$44,500	\$40,940
For each additional person, add	\$3,600	\$4,500	\$4,140

## 125%

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$13,000	\$16,250	\$14,950
2	\$17,500	\$21,875	\$20,125
3	\$22,000	\$27,500	\$25,300
4	\$26,500	\$33,125	\$30,475
5	\$31,000	\$38,750	\$35,650
6	\$35,500	\$44,375	\$40,825
7	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$46,000
8	\$44,500	\$55,625	\$51,175
For Each Additional Person, add	\$4,500	\$5,625	\$5,175

## 135%

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$14,040	\$17,550	\$16,146
2	\$18,900	\$23,625	\$21,735
3	\$23,760	\$29,700	\$27,324
4	\$28,620	\$35,775	\$32,913
5	\$33,480	\$41,850	\$38,502
6	\$38,340	\$47,925	\$44,091
7	\$43,200	\$54,000	\$49,680
8	\$48,060	\$60,075	\$55,269
For Each Additional Person, add	\$4,860	\$6,075	\$5,589

▶ A consumer may be eligible if their total household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines in states that follow the federal eligibility criteria. [Click here for a list of states using the federal eligibility criteria.](#)

▶ States that have their own EIT and Link Up Programs may set their own eligibility criteria by increasing OR decreasing total household income limits or choosing not to use total household income as an eligibility criterion.

▶ Additionally, some states may use total household income as eligibility criteria, but develop their own limits. For information about income based eligibility in these states contact the state commission.

## 150%

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$15,600	\$19,500	\$17,940
2	\$21,000	\$26,250	\$24,150
3	\$26,400	\$33,000	\$30,360
4	\$31,800	\$39,750	\$36,570
5	\$37,200	\$46,500	\$42,780
6	\$42,600	\$53,250	\$48,990
7	\$48,000	\$60,000	\$55,200
8	\$53,400	\$66,750	\$61,410
For Each Additional Person, add	\$5,400	\$6,750	\$6,210

## 175%

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$18,200	\$22,750	\$20,930
2	\$24,500	\$30,625	\$28,175
3	\$30,800	\$38,500	\$35,420
4	\$37,100	\$46,375	\$42,665
5	\$43,400	\$54,250	\$49,910
6	\$49,700	\$62,125	\$57,155
7	\$56,000	\$70,000	\$64,400
8	\$62,300	\$77,875	\$71,645
For Each Additional Person, add	\$6,300	\$7,875	\$7,245

\* SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3971-3972  
Please Note: The federal poverty guidelines are typically updated in the end of January.