

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

Company: James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company

Address: 235 E 1st Ave
Groton, SD 57445

Telephone number: 605-397-2323

Company contact: Kristi Larsen, Marketing Director

Study Area Code: 391664

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.companywebsiteaddress.com)

- Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): _____

*Required



NOTICE TO ALL JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CUSTOMERS

Changes brought about by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service. Details regarding the Lifeline and Link-Up programs are included in this notice.

FCC rules require a signed, written certification and periodic verification from the subscriber proving their eligibility by presenting in person or sending a copy of your Medicaid or other Lifeline qualifying public assistance card and self-certifying, under penalty of perjury, that you qualify to continue to participate in the Lifeline assistance program based on continued participation in qualifying public assistance programs or total household income below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (documentation required).

If you, as a subscriber, qualify, you may complete the enclosed application form along with the necessary documentation and return it to our office at:

**James Valley Telecommunications
235 E First Ave
PO Box 260
Groton, SD 57445-0260**

It is required in signing and submitting the application that you certify under penalty of perjury that you, in fact, qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up benefits, and if, at any time, you become ineligible, you will notify James Valley Telecommunications.

UNDER THE LIFELINE PROGRAM, ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS RECEIVE AN \$8.25 REDUCTION TO THEIR BASIC MONTHLY TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Please read the enclosed materials carefully. If you have any questions regarding these programs, call 611 or 1-800-556-6525.

Updated 5/2009

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

James Valley Telecommunications 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?

Telephone service must be in the applicant's name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs and **provide documentation** to be eligible:

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Food Stamps program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

Or

- My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

WHAT DO THE PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$8.25 each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the named eligible telephone company subscriber. **Lifeline** subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls 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 the 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 your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

HOW DO I APPLY AND RECERTIFY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, your **completed application form along with any necessary documentation must be delivered or mailed to:**

James Valley Telecommunications 235 E 1st Ave, Groton, SD 57445-0260.

COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

When you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs and your household income exceeds 135 per cent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, you are no longer eligible for **Lifeline** or **Link-Up**. You are obligated by law to notify James Valley Telecommunications and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for **Lifeline**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about **Lifeline** or **Link-Up**, the application form or your telephone service, contact James Valley Telecommunications at 611 or 1-800-556-6525.



Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance - Please Print

Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

Telephone Number (if existing service): () -

Number where you can be reached or receive messages: () -
area code & 7-digit number

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

1. I am applying for: _____ Lifeline monthly telephone service discount
_____ Link-Up telephone connection charge discount

Note: Telephone Service MUST be in applicant's name.

2. I am currently participating in the following program (**check all that apply and provide documentation to at least one of the following**):

- _____ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
_____ Food Stamps program
_____ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
_____ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
_____ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
_____ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
_____ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

OR

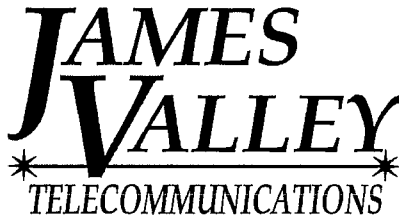
- _____ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

I agree to notify James Valley Telecommunications, when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE. I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet the above qualifications to receive Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

Your Signature

Social Security Number Date



**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 in 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: _____

**2009 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or
Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

| Size of Family Unit | 48 Contiguous States & DC |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | \$14,621 |
| 2 | \$19,670 |
| 3 | \$24,719 |
| 4 | \$29,768 |
| 5 | \$34,817 |
| 6 | \$39,866 |
| 7 | \$44,915 |
| 8 | \$49,964 |
| For each additional person, add | \$ 5,049 |

Yes, You Can Afford Telephone Service... and James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company Can Show You How!

Federal and state lawmakers believe that every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. In fact, they've created a system to do just that.

If you participate in programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, the national school free-lunch program, Section 8 housing or supplemental security income or if your household income is below a certain threshold level, you may qualify for a discount on your telephone bill.

This "universal service" support includes:

Lifeline assistance that provides discounts for basic monthly local telephone service

Link Up that reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service

Toll Limitation Service that allows you to control your long distance charges

Additional discounts for eligible consumers living on tribal lands

**For more information,
call 397-2323 or
1-800-556-6525.**

**JAMES
VALLEY**
* * *
TELECOMMUNICATIONS



NOTICE TO ALL JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIFELINE/LINK-UP CUSTOMERS

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FCC rules require a signed, written certification and periodic verification from the subscriber proving their eligibility by presenting in person or sending a copy of your Medicaid or other Lifeline qualifying public assistance card and self-certifying, under penalty of perjury, that you qualify to continue to participate in the Lifeline assistance program based on continued participation in qualifying public assistance programs or total household income below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (documentation required).

To continue receiving Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application form and return it, along with the necessary documentation, on or before July 2nd, 2009 to our office at:

**James Valley Telecommunications
235 E First Ave
PO Box 260
Groton, SD 57445-0260**

It is required in signing and submitting the application that you certify under penalty of perjury that you, in fact, qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up benefits, and if, at any time, you become ineligible, you will notify James Valley Telecommunications.

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HOW DO I RECERTIFY?

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

Telephone Number (if existing service): () -

Number where you can be reached or receive messages: () - area code & 7-digit number

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

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