

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

Company: Midstate Communications, Inc.

Address: 120 E. 1<sup>st</sup>

PO Box 48

Kimball, SD 57355

Telephone number: 605-778-6221

Company contact: Peggy Reimesch

Study Area Code: 391670

**Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:**

X

Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached advertisement(s).)

X

Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.\* (See attached letter.)

X

Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.

X

Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.  
([www.companywebsiteaddress.com](http://www.companywebsiteaddress.com))

X

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Required

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }  
COUNTY OF AURORA } ss.

Standard Publishing, Inc  
of said County and State, being first duly sworn, on his oath says:

AURORA COUNTY STANDARD is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in White lake, in Aurora County and State of South Dakota by Candice and Gus Walti and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that the said newspaper is a legal newspaper, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said county of Aurora in the English language for more than fifty-two successive weeks next prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned, and has been printed during said period and at the present time, in whole or in part in an office maintained at the said place of publication; and that I the undersigned, am

Publisher  
of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement headed Notice

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for one week; That said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to-wit:

- The first publication being made on 5-21, 20 07 ;
- the second publication on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- the third publication on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- the fourth publication on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- the fifth publication on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- the sixth publication on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ;
- and the last publication on \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_ ;

that \$ 135.00, the full amount of the fee charged for publication of the annexed notice, insures solely to the benefit of the publishers of the said newspaper; that no arrangement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any persons whomsoever.

Candice M. Walti

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public, \_\_\_\_\_ County

# **NOTICE FROM MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephoneservice.

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.

Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Link Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

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 whether I am eligible?**

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not provide state support, an individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- \* Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- \* Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- \* Medicaid
- \* 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 35% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, or participate in one of these programs:

- \* Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance
- \* Head Start (income eligible)
- \* Tribal TANF

How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support discounts? To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discounts please contact Midstate Communications, PO Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 or by phone at 605-778-6221.

## **Important Notice Regarding the DTV Transition**

After February 7, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital 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 [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009 for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

**THE PLATTE ENTERPRISE**

Platte, South Dakota 57369

**Affidavit of Publication**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA     )  
  )SS.  
COUNTY OF CHARLES MIX     )

Sharon Huizenga, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is a resident of Charles Mix County, and State of South Dakota; that the Platte Enterprise is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Platte, in said County and State, published once a week, printed in the English language, and has a bona fide circulation of 200 copies weekly, has been admitted to the United States mail under the second class mailing privilege for at least one year prior to the publication of the annexed notice, and said newspaper is printed either in whole or in part in the office maintained at the above place of publication, that the newspaper has been published as aforesaid continuously for more than one year last preceding the publication of said notice, and is a legal newspaper.

That the affiant is the publisher of said newspaper, in charge of advertising department thereof and has personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; and that the notice and advertisement headed

Legal Notice From Midstate Communications a

printed copy of which is hereunto attached, was printed and published in The Platte Enterprise

for one issues, the first publication being made on Thursday, the 29th day of May,

A.D., 20 08 and the succeeding publications were made severally on...

Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., 20 \_\_\_\_\_

and the last publication being made on Thursday, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

That the publication fee for publishing said notice is the sum of \$ 35.71

Sharon Huizenga

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2 day of June, A.D. 20 08

[Signature]  
Notary Public for Charles Mix County, SD

My Commission Expires On 8-12-2011

## LEGAL NOTICE

### LEGAL NOTICE FROM MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS

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. Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Link Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200. Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

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 whether I am eligible?

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not provide state support, an individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- 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.

Residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, or participate in one of these programs:

Publisher's Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )
)SS
COUNTY OF BRULE )

Karla Ellingson, of said county and state being duly sworn on her oath says: The Chamberlain/Oacoma Sun is a weekly newspaper of general circulation and published in Chamberlain, Brule County, and State of South Dakota; and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; That said newspaper is a legal weekly, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of Brule more than fifty-two successive weeks next prior to publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and maintained at the place of publication; That I, the undersigned am a representative of said newspaper, thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement headed:

Mid State Communication

a printed copy of which is hereto attached and published in the said newspaper for 1 consecutive week(s).

The first publication of said notice in said newspaper aforesaid was on Wednesday, the 28 day of May A.D., 2008 and that the succeeding publications were severally Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008 Wednesday, the day of A.D., 2008

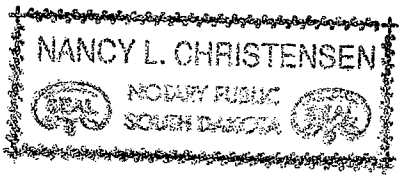
and the last publication on Wednesday, the 28 day of May, 2008, that the full sum of fees charged for publishing the same, to-wit; the sum of \$ 65.25 insures solely to the editor of The Chamberlain/Oacoma Sun. That no agreement or understanding for any division thereof had been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whatsoever.

Karla Ellingson Signed

Nancy L Christensen Notary Public

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of May, 2008

My Commission expires 3-18-2010, 200



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What type of discount is available?

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Link Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200. Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to

cover 100% of the and \$130. Toll Limitati support allows who wish to avoid distance fees to ch toll control at no cc How do I kn eligible? Eligibility for L TLS support varies who reside in state: discount programs Lifeline, Link Up, and meet the eligibility by their state. In provide state supp eligible if he or sh of the following pr Low-Incoo Assistance Prograr Federal Public or Section 8 Medicaid Food Stamps Supplement (SSI) Temporary A Families (TANF) National Sch free lunch program In addition, a eligible if his or her at or below 135% c guidelines. (See at Residents of Ir

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota

ss

County of Brule

Debi Ruiz of said county, being, first duly sworn, on oath, says: That she is the publisher of *Central Dakota Times*, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Chamberlain, in said County of Brule, and State of South Dakota; that she has full and personal knowledge of the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper as defined in SDCL 17-2-2.1 through 17-2-2.4 inclusive; that said newspaper has been published within the said County of Brule and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice, and that the Lifeline, Link up and

Toll Limitation Service  
Support

a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, and which is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper for one successive week(s) to wit:

May 28, 2008; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_;

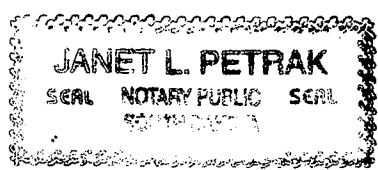
That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice inures to the sole benefit of the publisher or publishers; that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever; that the fees charged for the publication thereof are:

\$105<sup>00</sup>

Signed: Debi Ruiz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2008

Janet L. Petrak  
Notary Public in and for the County of Brule,  
South Dakota



My commission expires June 5, 2010.



**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.

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- Medicaid
- 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. (See attached table.) Residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or participate in one of these programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance
- Head Start (income eligible)
- Tribal TANF

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

To apply for Lifeline, Link Up and TLS discounts, please contact Midstate Communications, P.O. Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 or by phone at 605-778-6221.

**Important Notice Regarding The DTV Transition**

After Feb. 7, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the nation's transition to digital 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 [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009 for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

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a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, and which is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper for One successive week(s) to wit:

Sept 17, 2008; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_;

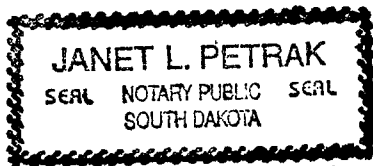
That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice inures to the sole benefit of the publisher or publishers; that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever; that the fees charged for the publication thereof are:

\$107.50

Signed: Debi Ruiz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.

Janet L. Petrak  
Notary Public in and for the County of Brule,  
South Dakota



My commission expires June 5, 2010.



P.O. Box 48 • Kimball, SD 57355  
605-778-6221  
www.midstatesd.net

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## SMALL DIRECTORIES ARE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

In response to customer requests Midstate Communications will once again be selling the small directories with only Midstate Communications' customers listed. This book will not be available until April and will be available for sale at our Kimball and our Chamberlain offices.



### Important Dates to Remember...

Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed the last business day of each month, and payment is due on the 20th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and unwanted late fees.

- **Last Business Day of Each Month**  
Bills mailed out from Midstate's office
- **5th of Each Month**  
Disconnect of all accounts with a 30 day balance.
- **20th of Each Month**  
Bills are due in either Midstate office by 12:00 p.m.
- **20th of Each Month**  
Overdue notices mailed out and late fees will be applied to all delinquent accounts.

*\*All Midstate bills are due upon receipt. Any bills that have not been received by the 5th of the following month will be disconnected. To be reconnected the bill must be paid in full and will be subject to a down payment and appropriate reconnect fees.*

## High School Seniors DON'T MISS OUT!

The Midstate Communications and Midstate Telecom Scholarship deadline of April 1, 2009 is quickly approaching. Midstate will once again be awarding ten (10) \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors within our telephone exchange service areas and one (1) scholarship in the Midstate Telecom service area.

Eligibility for receiving a scholarship includes: the student must be a graduating high school senior in the year the scholarship is presented. The student and the student's parent or legal guardian must reside in and be an active member and telephone subscriber with a Midstate Communications Cooperative or Midstate Telecom exchange.

Applications may be downloaded from Midstate's web page at [www.midsatesd.net](http://www.midsatesd.net), or contact your local high school counselors or the Midstate offices.

**Once again, applications are due at the Midstate office by April 1, 2009.**



## Directories to be delivered in April

The 2009 "Central Connections" directories will be delivered to your mailboxes in April. Each customer, business and residential, will be mailed a directory. Additional directories will be available for pick up at numerous locations throughout our exchanges.

### *The directories are available at the following locations:*

Chamberlain .....	Midstate Telecom Office
Delmont.....	First State Bank
Fort Thompson.....	Post Office
Gann Valley .....	Court House Treasurer's Office
Geddes.....	First State Bank
Platte .....	First Fidelity bank, Bank of the West
Kimball .....	Midstate Communications Office
New Holland.....	Overweg Feed & Grocery
Pukwana .....	Brule County Co-op
White Lake.....	Farmers & Merchant Bank
Stickney .....	Farmer's State Bank

## **Lifeline – Monthly Discounts on Your Phone Bill**

In these tough economic times everyone is looking for ways to pinch pennies and save a little money. One of the ways that Midstate Communications can help is a government sponsored program called Lifeline/Link-up. This program provides a discount of \$8.25 monthly for local phone service.

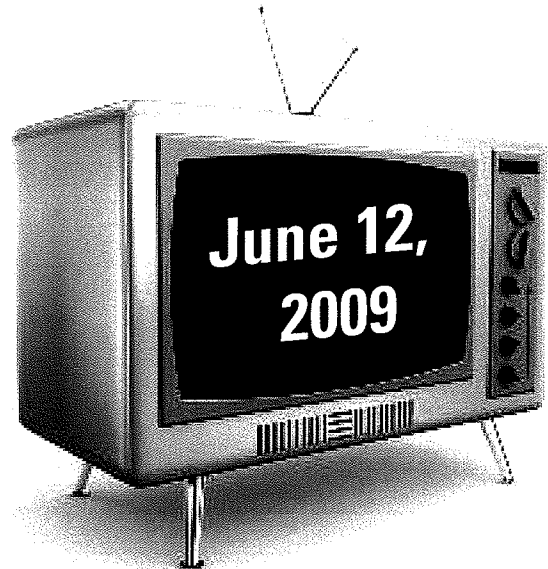


In order to qualify, customers would need to fill out an application and meet the criteria outlined on the form. A Midstate Communications employee would need to see verification that the applicant qualifies for a government assistance program. (The programs that allow qualification are: Medicaid, Food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance program, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Head Start, National FREE School Lunch Programs, or household income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.)

If you have any questions on this program and are wondering if you qualify, please call Midstate Communications at 605-778-6221 for more information or to receive an application.

## **Digital TV Transition**

As you have probably seen advertised, all TV stations are being required by the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) to broadcast their stations digitally. This is what is being referred to as the "Digital Transition". The date for the digital switch was originally set for February 17, 2009; however, the FCC recently postponed that date to June 12, 2009. This Digital Transition applies only to those who receive the broadcast channels on their TV through an antenna on their roof or rabbit ears on top of their TV. If you have Cable TV with Midstate you will not need to do anything as we have already taken care of the transition for you. If you have questions, go to [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).



## **What is the Main Difference between http & https — It's all about keeping you secure!**

HTTP stands for HyperText Transport Protocol, which is just a fancy way of saying it's a protocol (a language, in a manner of speaking) for information to be passed back and forth between web servers and clients. The important thing is the letter S which makes the difference between HTTP and HTTPS. The S stands for "Secure."

If you visit a website or webpage, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: http://. This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular 'unsecure' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website! If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site. This is why you should never ever enter your credit card number in an http website!

But if the web address begins with https:// that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on.

You understand why this is so important, right? If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with https://. If it doesn't, there's no way you're going to enter sensitive information like a credit card number.

## Senior Citizens — Beware of Phone Scam!!



Some of you may have seen on the news or read in the paper about an elderly woman from Mitchell that recently was taken in by a phone call that swindled her out of \$3000. According to the Kelo-land web site, this senior citizen received a call on her home phone that ended up costing her dearly. The young man on the other end said "Hi, Grandma", and she responded by addressing her grandson, Todd, whom she thought was on the other end. He claimed that he was in Canada and had gotten himself into some trouble. He asked her if she could please help him out by wiring some money through a wire transfer to Canada. He told her exactly how to draw the money from her credit card and wire it to him at a Walmart store in Canada.

She did exactly as she was told, thinking she was helping her grandson that she loved out of a tough spot.

She called him a few days later to see if he was safely home from his trip to Canada only to find out that there was no trip to Canada, and that the man that she talked to the day before, the man she wired \$3000 to, was not her grandson. Though this case is under investigation, they have not yet found any way to track the money or get it back. It would seem, at this point, that she has lost \$3000.

Her intention in making this public is to let others know to beware of this. One of the customer service representatives at Midstate Communications took a call at the beginning of February from an elderly woman in one of our exchanges saying that she had just received a similar call. She avoided the scam, but we want our customers to be aware of the scam to protect you from losing money and being taken in by this trick. Law enforcement believes scammers are most likely calling random numbers until they happen to reach a senior citizen.

Midstate Communications has features that can help protect you from scams and telemarketers by placing restrictions on the calls that come into your home, such as Caller Identification, Telemarketer Call screening or Anonymous Caller Rejection. Please call our office for more details at 605-778-6221.

## Get High Definition Channels with Midstate's PVR

When you sign up to have a Personal Video Recorder (PVR) installed in your home you will also receive, at NO extra charge, all of Midstate Communications High Definition TV channels. In order to receive these channels in true High definition with crystal clear picture and sound, your TV must be HD capable. We currently have the Outdoor Channel, HGTV and the Food Network in High Definition, just to name a few. Check us out in High Definition – call today to get a PVR installed. You can see our full channel line up at [www.midstatesd.net](http://www.midstatesd.net) under the Cable TV tab.

**EXPERIENCE MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS DIGITAL CABLE TODAY!!!**

**YOU'LL BE  
BLOWN  
AWAY  
WITH OUR NEW  
HIGH DEFINITION  
CHANNELS**



**Midstate COMMUNICATIONS**

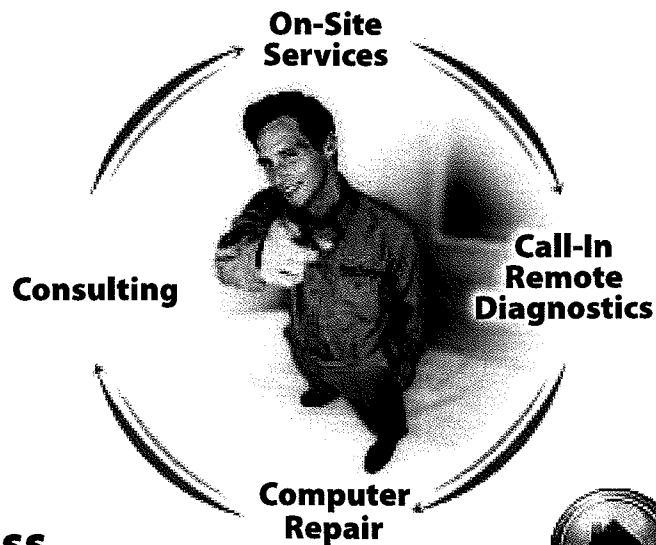
**MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS HAS WHAT YOUR LOOKING FOR!!!**

- **Over 100 Digital Channels To Choose From!**
- **Record Your Favorite Shows With The NEW Personal Video Recorder Set Top Box!**
- **A NEW Interactive Program Guide!**
- **40 DMX Music Channels**

**visit us on the web at [www.midstatesd.net](http://www.midstatesd.net)**

# In today's world of computer technology, you depend on fast, reliable services.

Midstate Communications offers a full range of computer solutions to meet your technology needs. Our highly trained staff provides professional, high-quality service at affordable rates in the comfort and convenience of your home or business.



## Business Services...

- Server Installataion & Support
- Anti-virus and Internet Security Solutions
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Wireless Networking
- Technology Consulting
- Troubleshooting & Repair
- Remote Managed Services
- Network Design & Management
- Computer Network Security
- Email Server & Mobile Device Support
- Computer Sales & Consulting



## Residential Services...

- Anti-Virus & Internet Security Solutions
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Wireless Networking
- Troubleshooting & Repair
- Computer Clean-up & Repair
- Computer Network Security
- Computer Sales & Consulting
- Additional Services



PO Box 48  
Kimball, SD 57355  
778-6221  
[www.midstatesd.net](http://www.midstatesd.net)



Volume 15 ▪ Issue 6  
June 2008

# MESSENGER

120 E. First, P.O. Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 ▪ (605) 778-6221 ▪ Fax: (605) 778-8080

## Midstate Cable Television Feature Channel...

### The Weather Channel

As summer approaches so does the severe weather season. You can get all pertinent weather information from The Weather Channel.

Various programs are run throughout the day highlighting current weather conditions across the United States, in addition to original programming.

Throughout time weather has shaped history. NASA, World War II, and historic heroic rescue attempts have all been impacted by the weather. This new series uncovers the most powerful moments in history and the remarkable role played by Mother Nature. When Weather Changed History airs each Sunday night at 8:00 p.m.

Storm Stories features real-life individuals who have stood face-to-face with Nature challenging its wrath. Host Jim Cantore talks with heroic rescuers and survivors who share with him their stories of triumph and tragedy. Storm Stories can be seen Monday-Friday at 1:00 p.m.

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG - IT'S FREE**  
**South Dakota One Call**  
24 Hours per day  
1-800-781-7474  
www.sdonecall.com

**CALL 48 HOURS BEFORE DIGGING!**

### Important Dates to Remember...

Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed the last business day of each month, and payment is due on the 20th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and unwanted late fees.

- **Last Business Day of Each Month**  
Bills mailed out from Midstate's office
- **5th of Each Month**  
Disconnect of all accounts with a 30 day balance.
- **20th of Each Month**  
Bills are due in either Midstate office by 12:00 p.m.
- **20th of Each Month**  
Overdue notices mailed out and late fees will be applied to all delinquent accounts.

*\*All Midstate bills are due upon receipt. Any bills that have not been received by the 5th of the following month will be disconnected. To be reconnected the bill must be paid in full and will be subject to a down payment and appropriate reconnect fees.*

## 2008 Midstate Communication Scholarship Winners!!

Once again, Midstate Communications is honored to announce the 2008 Midstate Communications Scholarship winners.

Each year, ten, \$500.00 scholarships are awarded to outstanding graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are members of the Midstate Communications cooperative and one scholarship to a student in the Midstate Telecom exchange. Over 50 students applied for the eleven scholarships. Applicants were judged by an impartial committee outside of Midstate Communications on their essay, community activities, school activities and achievement. This marks the tenth year that Midstate has awarded scholarship to students within our serving area. Midstate is proud to offer the program as we are committed to supporting the youth in our service areas.

Hats off to this year's Midstate Communications Scholarship winners and to the entire class of 2008!

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Anne Wentworth, Stickney High School<br>Parent(s): Jim & Jackie Wentworth          | Elizabeth Bosworth, White Lake High School<br>Parent(s): Joe & Becky Bosworth   |
| Emily Nachtigal, Platte-Geddes High School<br>Parent(s): Sam & Patti Nachtigal     | Jordan Hanten, White Lake High School<br>Parent(s): Joe & Paulena Hanten  |
| Jessica Van Vuren, Dakota Christian High School<br>Parent(s): Vern & Jan Van Vuren | Avery Tooley, Platte-Geddes High School<br>Parent(s): William Tooley & Margaret Bobertz                               |
| Ashley Veurink, Dakota Christian High School<br>Parent(s): Brad & Debra Veurink    | Logan Holter, Platte-Geddes High School<br>Parent(s): Jim & Kathy Holter  |
| Christen Backes, Kimball High School<br>Parent(s): David & Sherri Backes           | <i>Midstate Telecom Scholarship Winner:</i><br>Jenna Petrak, Chamberlain High School<br>Parent(s): Mel & Janet Petrak |
| Alyssa Gough, Kimball High School<br>Parent(s): Michelle Gough                     |   |

## Director Elections for 2008 Scheduled

In accordance with the bylaws of the cooperative, director elections have been scheduled for three districts. Election notices were sent out to each member in the corresponding district in May's billing along with the location and time the election is to be held.

Any person(s) who qualifies under the cooperative's bylaws may run for the directorships, including incumbent directors.

District Director Elections are scheduled as follows to elect one director from each district:

Date	Exchange	Election Location	Time
July 15	Stickney	Legion Café	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
July 16	New Holland	Overweg Feed & Seed	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
July 17	Kimball	Ponderosa Cafe	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Should there be only one petitioner in any of these districts, the scheduled meeting will be utilized as the annual Telco Days event for each exchange.

Individuals interested in seeking a position on the board of directors can pick up a petition at the Midstate Communications office in Kimball or by calling 778-6221. Petitions must be completed and returned no later than 30 days prior to the district election date stated above for the exchange in which you are filing for a position.

## 2008 Telco Days Are Coming To Your Community...Plan To Attend!!

It's time for us to pack up the vans and hit the road on our annual Telco Days trip to all of our exchanges to spend a day visiting with you, our customer owners, over a cup of coffee and mouth watering cookies.

Plan to attend this year's Telco Days in your community to sign up for great door prizes and talk with Midstate representatives. Everyone who attends will go home with a gift so stop in and pick up your gift.

Telco days for the months of June will be held in the following communities from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.:

DATE	EXCHANGE	LOCATION
June 4	Academy	Academy Fire Hall
June 5	Gann Valley	Gann Valley Community Center
June 10	Delmont	No Place Steakhouse (11:00 – 1:00 pm.)
June 16	Platte	Dutch Oven Bakery
June 17	Geddes	4th & Main Mini Mall
June 19	White Lake	Jackie's Café

*NOTE: The Academy Telco day has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 4, 2008 due to the Primary Elections.*

*We hope to see you there!!*

## Lifeline and Linkup Service Available to Low Income Households

Midstate Communications and Midstate Telecom are authorized to provide federal telephone assistance programs. Two such programs provided by both companies are Lifeline and Link-Up. Both were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

The Lifeline program provides a \$8.25 monthly credit on the basic phone service portion of the participant's telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive free long distance blocking 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% of the applicable charges or \$30 or 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.

Applicants are eligible if they participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs and can show proof of participation: Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, or income is at or below (135%) of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Additional Lifeline and Link-Up support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) can verify whether or not a specific location meets the Enhanced Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up designation. Enhanced Tribal Lifeline and Link-Up provides for expanded eligibility opportunities and additional telephone service discounts. In addition to the previously cited programs for those individuals residing on Tribal Lands, participation in any of the following meets the eligibility standard: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance; Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or Head Start Programs (under income qualifying eligibility provisions only). If you are on Lifeline or Link-Up and are no longer eligible for any of these low-income programs you are obligated by law to notify Midstate Communications or Midstate Telecom of your ineligibility.

Contact the Midstate Communications office in Kimball at 778-6221 or the Midstate Telecom office in Chamberlain at 234-8000, for more information or application forms.

## Digital Television Transmission Notice

After February 17, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital 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.

The DTV transition will have no effect on your access to Multi-Channel Video Programming Distributor (MVPD) service. Analog sets not connected to an MVPD service may need additional equipment (i.e. converter box) or may have to be replaced. If you currently subscribe to Midstate Cable Television service your current television sets will continue to operate properly.

Information about the DTV transition is available from [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) or by calling Midstate Communications at 778-6221 or online at [www.midstatesd.net](http://www.midstatesd.net), and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009 for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

## Save a Penny...Use Auto Bank Deduct or E-statement from Midstate Communications

With the recent increase in the price of a stamp from \$.41 to \$.42 there is not a better time to make the switch to Auto Bank Deduct or E-statement from Midstate Communications.

With Auto Bank Deduct you will never have to worry about another late fee, or making sure your bill is mailed into our office on time. You simply choose either the 4th, 10th or 19th of each month and your payment will automatically be drawn from either your checking, savings or credit card. Your payments will be made on time each month with no hassles along with saving you \$.42 each month.

For those customers who subscribe to Midstate's free E-statement you not only receive your monthly Midstate bill online you can also pay your bill online. With E-statement you can make either a one-time payment online or set it up where it will automatically withdraw and pay your monthly bill for you every month.

Midstate gives you two easy ways to pay your monthly bill and two easy ways to save you money each month. If you would like more information or would like to subscribe to either Auto Bank Deduct or E-statement, contact one of our Customer Service Representatives at 778-6221 or 234-8000.

# GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS-Cont'd

## Customer-Provided Equipment

Customer-provided equipment may not be attached to or connected with telephone facilities unless (1) it is registered or otherwise approved by the Federal Communications Commission (2) it meets the conditions set forth in the company's tariffs, and (3) advance notification is given to the telephone company, by the customer, of the type of equipment to be connected and the type of telephone company facility required to make the connections. These rules and tariffs are designed to meet the convenience of the customer and at the same time protect the telephone network against any possible hazards to customers and company employees.

The telephone companies will not maintain and may not be able to repair customer-provided equipment. A service charge may apply if the telephone company visits the premises of the customer and the service difficulty or trouble is found to have been caused by the customer-provided equipment or facilities.

If you have any questions concerning the use of customer-provided equipment, please contact your Business Office.

## Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

If the problem cannot be solved to your satisfaction, you may refer your complaint to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) at 500 East Capitol Ave, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070 or telephone 605-773-3201 or toll free 1-800-332-1782.

## Taxes

Federal law requires a 3 percent excise tax on telephone rental and long distance charges. These taxes are billed to all telephone users not specifically exempt by law. All taxes collected are remitted to the proper federal and state agencies.

## Allowance For Failure Of Service

The Telephone Companies do not guarantee uninterrupted working of its lines or equipment. In case service is interrupted otherwise than by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber,

an adjustment will, upon application by a subscriber, be made in the amount of charges for such service, equipment, and facilities furnished as are rendered useless or inoperative. Any adjustment shall apply only to the period the interruption continues beyond 24 hours after notice of the interruption is received by the Telephone Companies. No other liability shall in any case attach to the Telephone Companies.

## Billing And Payment For Service

If you desire assistance or explanation regarding your bill, please call the Business Office.

## National Do Not Call Registry

The federal government created the National Do Not Call Registry to make it easier and more efficient for you to stop getting most telemarketing sales calls you don't want. You can register online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) if you have an active e-mail address, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free and your number will stay in the registry for five years, until it is disconnected, or until you delete it from the registry. After five years, you may renew your registration.

If you receive telemarketing calls after you have registered your telephone number and it has been in the registry for three months, you can file a complaint at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You will have to know the company's name or phone number to file a "do not call" complaint.

## Annoying, Obscene, And Threatening Calls

If you get an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 30 for instructions on using Customer Originated Trace. Threatening calls should be reported immediately to the police. Obscene or harassing calls are prohibited by federal and state laws. A person who makes or permits such calls to be made over a telephone under his control may be fined or imprisoned, or both.

## Telephone Assistance Programs

### Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone Subscribers

Santel Communications and Midstate Communications are authorized to offer Lifeline and Link-up to our customers. Lifeline and Link-up are federal telephone assistance programs. To be eligible for either of these programs, the applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: Free Reduced School Lunch Program, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or meet poverty level income guidelines.

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$8.25 each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The discount applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the 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 installation charges for their basic home telephone service. The reduction is 50% of the applicable charges or \$30, whichever is less. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside the home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

### Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

The Tribal Lifeline program provides a reduction in monthly charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program.

The Tribal Link-Up program provides a reduction in connection charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program.

For more information, call Midstate Customer Service at: 605-778-6221, 605-234-8000, or 1-888-214-1431  
Email: [midstate@midstatesd.net](mailto:midstate@midstatesd.net)

OR

Santel Communications Customer Service at: 1-888-978-7777, 605-796-4411, or 777 from any Santel Exchange  
Email: [info@santel.net](mailto:info@santel.net)

For more information, you may also contact: [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)

**NOTE:** All rules & regulations in effect at time of printing are subject to change without notice.



-----*Midstate Communications - Your Best Connection!*

## **Lifeline / Linkup Assistance**

### **Lifeline**

Provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify. Qualifying customers can receive basic phone service for as low as \$1.00 per month.

Items covered by the \$1.00 Lifeline portion of the program include basic one-party telephone service equipped with touch-tone and toll restriction (if requested). Not covered are second lines, leased equipment, long distance calls, 911 surcharge, the CIF or hearing impaired fund, taxes and optional calling features like Call Waiting and Caller ID.

To find out if you're eligible, see [below](#). To apply, click [here](#).

### **Linkup**

Provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone subscriber.

The reduction is up to \$100 (50% of the first \$60 and 100% of charges between \$60 and \$130).

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.

Those qualifying for Enhanced Lifeline Program will also qualify for the Link-Up Program which provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

To find out if you're eligible, see [below](#). To apply, click [here](#).



## Eligibility

Applicants must live on tribal lands and participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to qualify:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- BIA General Assistance Programs
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (Meeting Income Test)
- National School Lunch Program
- Income-Based Criterion (income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines)

**\*\* Participating members and members of the qualified member's household MUST:**

- 1). Be in good standing as a member of the Midstate Communications Cooperative.
- 2). Be current in all payments to Midstate Communications. Customers will be approved on an individual basis upon receipt of properly filed forms.

"Tribal Land" for purposes of the Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Programs includes the BIA definitions of "reservation." The term "reservation" means any federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or Colony, and Indian Allotments.

Click [here](#) to apply



120 E. First, P.O. Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 • (605) 778-6221 • Fax: (605) 778-8080 • [Email](#)  
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5/22/2009

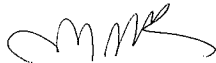
Send To Address

Dear Customer:

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requires that we notify our customers on an annual basis of the Lifeline Link-up Assistance program. We have enclosed the paperwork explaining eligibility for this program as well as the application. Please review this information and if you qualify for the assistance please complete the application and return it to us with the documentation of the program you are participating in. Examples of documentation would be a copy of the food stamp EBT card if you qualify for food stamps, a copy of the Medicaid card in your name or a copy of the fuel assistance letter if you qualify for the Home Energy Assistance program. Each program has a document of proof that we would need to see as verification that you are eligible.

If you have questions about Lifeline or Link-up, the application form or your telephone service, please contact us at 778-6221 or 234-8000 for more information.

Sincerely,  
MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.



Mark D. Benton  
General Manager

MDB/jt

Enclosures



## Telephone Assistance Programs for Low Income Households

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Selected state:

South Dakota

Please select your local phone company from the list below.

(Not all phone companies are listed. Please call your local phone company for more information if they are not listed here.)

Midstate Communications, Inc.

Go

## Lifeline and Link Up Information for Midstate Communications, Inc. Customers in South Dakota

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### Landline Service

**Lifeline** is a government program that offers qualified low income households a discount on their monthly local telephone bill. Each state has its own guidelines to qualify. The application and qualification process differs by state and sometimes by individual phone company.

- **How much can I save?**

You will save up to \$8.25-22.45 on your basic monthly bill. These benefits apply to your local telephone service charges that you purchase as flat rate service. These benefits will also cover your subscriber line charge.

- **How do I know if I am eligible?**

Program based eligibility:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance / Section 8
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- National School Lunch (free program only)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Additional eligibility criteria may apply to residents of federally recognized tribal lands

Income based eligibility:

- Total household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- **Are there any restrictions?**

Lifeline can only be used for the primary telephone line in a household. You may purchase additional services available to a non-Lifeline customer. The name on the phone bill must match the name of the household member participating on the eligible program with the exception of the National School Lunch free Program.

- **How do I apply?**

To apply for Lifeline call Midstate directly at 605-778-6221 or 605-234-8000. You may find more information about Lifeline and other telephone services available from Midstate Communications, Inc. at <http://www.midstatesd.net>. An application can be obtained via phone, or from Midstate Office in Kimball or Chamberlain,.

- **What proof of eligibility do I need to provide?**

You will be asked for proof of your eligibility by submitting a form signed under penalty of perjury that you receive benefits from or a copy of any dated document which verifies your participation in one of the qualifying programs

listed above. Proof of total household income may be required for income based qualification. Your Lifeline benefits will take effect when proof of eligibility is received.

- **How do I continue to receive Lifeline benefits?**

Eligibility is reviewed periodically. Your benefits will be discontinued when you no longer meet the eligibility requirements or when proof of eligibility is not received. Customers who are no longer eligible for Lifeline benefits must notify their service provider.

- **Other Useful information**

There are other options that can help you save money, including free toll blocking, waived deposit with toll blocking and voluntary limit on long distance calling (toll control).

**Link Up** helps households reduce the cost of initiating telephone service. This program pays some of the cost of connecting local telephone service to your home or activating wireless phone service. However, Link Up does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home.

- **How much will I save?**

Link Up will pay 50% of your installation charges for total discount of \$12.75. (Maximum benefit \$30.00) An additional discount may apply to residents of federally recognized tribal lands.

- **How do I know if I am eligible?**

If you qualify for Lifeline, you also qualify for Link Up.

- **Are there any restrictions?**

Link Up can only be used for the charges for activating a primary telephone line or moving existing service to a new address. Charges related to wiring and telephone jacks within your home and wireless handsets are not eligible for the Link Up discount.

- **How do I apply?**

To apply for Link Up you will follow the same application process as Lifeline and the same proof of eligibility as Lifeline.

**Being a Lifeline or Link Up customer does not protect you from being disconnected if you fail to pay your telephone bill.**

**Lifeline and Link Up discounts cannot be applied to an outstanding balance owed to your phone company.**

**Lifeline can only be applied to one wireless OR wireline telephone per household.**

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Last modified on 7/31/2008

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