

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2012**

Company: Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc.

Address: PO Box 7

102 Main St S

Herreid, SD 57632-0007

Telephone number: (605)-437-2615

Company contact: Lisa Ochsner or Marcia Huber

Study Area Code: 391685

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.valleytel.net)

 X Company's information posted on USAC website.

_____ Other (describe): _____

*Required

Channel 2 on our video TV system

Avellin Composer - Herreid CATV.vp

File Edit View Page Object Help

no selection Properties Bring Forward Send Back Delete RGB(255, 255, 255) Position = (64, 242), Size = (484, 148)

Herreid CATV.vp : Page 15


Region T1

The "Lifeline" Telephone Assistance Plan is available to Valley Customers.

You may qualify for a discount of \$8.25 on your telephone bill if you participate in any of the following programs, or meet income guidelines...

This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. The customer can only receive one Lifeline subsidy.

- * Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps)
- * Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- * Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- * Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical)
- * Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- * Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- * National School Lunch free lunch program



Call Valley's Business Office at 437-2615 for details.

Region B2

Insert Text
Insert Picture
Insert Rectangle
Insert Ellipse
Insert Flash
Insert Video Frame
Select Video Clip
Credit Roll
MS PowerPoint
Page Properties
Project Properties
Exit Page

9:01 AM
4/24/2012

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

The NW Blade
PO Box 797; Eureka, SD 57437
605-284-2631

STATE OF South Dakota; COUNTY OF Mc Pherson

I, Heidi Morlock, am authorized by the publisher as agent to make this affidavit of publication. Under oath, I state that the following is true and correct.

The NW Blade, is a newspaper which is published weekly and is of general circulation and is in compliance with South Dakota Newspaper Association legalized Statutes.

The notice has been published in the newspaper listed above.

DATE(S) OF PUBLICATION:

- 1) 12-22-11 Federal Lifeline Notice
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

THE _____ OF THE CORPORATION / GOVERNMENT OFFICE: Valley

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:

Heidi Morlock, Editor
Heidi Morlock, Editor

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON THE

29 DAY OF Dec, 2011.

NOTARY SIGNATURE: Barry Lapp

(My commission expires June 5, 2016)

Lions Football Winner
The winner of game #14 between the San Francisco 49er's (20) and the Pittsburg Steelers (3) is #85, Melroy Job of Eureka, SD.

Federal Lifeline Notice

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic Services are offered at the following rates:

- Single Party Residence Service \$15.50/month
- Single Party Business Service \$15.50/month

Local residence and business service includes: voice grade access to the public telephone network, single-party flat-rated local service free of per minutes charges, dual tone multi-frequency (touch-tone) service, access to directory assistance service, access to other operator services, access to 911 emergency services, access to interexchange (long distance) services, toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers, providing the consumer is not already receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier (including wireless providers). These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. In addition, program rules state that no qualifying consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently. If an applying consumer is currently receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier (including a wireless provider), they will need to discontinue their benefits with the alternate carrier prior to receiving benefits from Valley Telecommunications.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Valley Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Valley Telecommunication's business office at (605) 437-2615.



PO Box 7 - 102 Main St
Herreid SD 57632-0007
www.valleytel.net



Church Schedules

USDA/Farm Service Agency News

The McPherson County FSA office would like to keep you informed of the following items important to USDA programs. If you have any questions, please contact the McPherson County office at 439-3336 ext 2.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 26, 2011 – Office closed Christmas

January 2, 2012 – Office closed New Year's

January 16, 2012 – Office closed Martin Luther King, Jr Day

January 23, 2012 – Signup begins for 2012 DCP-ACRE

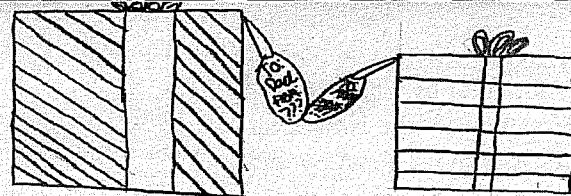
March 15, 2012- Deadline date to purchase NAP coverage for alfalfa and grass seed, forage seeding, grass hay, grazing forage, and all other spring seeded crops for the 2012 crop year

COC Elections Held

The McPherson County producers elected Cynthia Aman (incumbent) for a 3 year term. This is Cindy's final term. Other members of the committee are Connie Stugelmayer and Chris Sieh

Happy Holidays from the Eureka Medical Clinic

605-284-2621



HO, HO, HO
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Michaela Kappes, 6th Grade

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and happy healthy New Year!
Dr. Susan and Staff

Reformed Church Ladies

The November 28 meeting of the Eureka Reformed Church Ladies Aid was opened by Presi Verlena Mehlhaff at 7:30 p.m. Group singing was accompanied by Joyce Dohn. "Every Thanksgiving" was read by Verlena Mehlhaff.

Pastor Stetler led the Bible Study on Isaiah 7:10-16. The message looks forward to the fulfillment of Christmas.

Roll call was answered by members. The secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved. Correspondence included a thank you from Ida Bentz, a donation from Ida and a newsletter from Right Life.

Sandy Opp reported on meals prepared for the Senior Project. Velma Mehlhaff and Lang have cleaned up the outdoor flowers.

New Business: There will be a birthday visit and program at the Health Care in January. Christmas donations were discussed. Christmas caroling is being planned. Letty Mehlhaff and Kathy Schaeffer will purchase poinsettia plants.

The birthday song, the Lord's Prayer and table grace close the meeting. Hostesses were Koerner and Joyce Dohn. There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 30 at 7:30 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota)
) SS
County of Edmunds)

D.E. Gibson of said county, being, first duly sworn on oath says: That he is the publisher or an employee of the publisher of the Ipswich Tribune, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Ipswich, in said County of Edmunds, and State of South Dakota; that he 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 Edmunds and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice, and that the advertisement headed

FEDERAL LIFELINE NOTICE

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 issues.

The First publication being made on the 21 day of Dec., 2011

The Second publication being made on the day of , 2011

The Third publication being made on the day of , 2011

The Fourth publication being made on the day of , 2011

The Fifth publication being made on the day of , 2011

That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice insures to the sole benefit of the publisher; 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:

Twenty-seven Dollars and
fifty cents (\$.27.50)

Signed: [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30 day of Dec., 2011

[Signature]
Notary Public - Edmunds County, South Dakota
My commission expires February 26, 2013

Federal Lifeline Notice

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic Services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service \$15.50/month
Single Party Business Service \$15.50/month

Local residence and business service includes: voice grade access to the public telephone network; single-party flat-rated local service free of per minutes charges, dual tone multi-frequency (touch-tone) service, access to directory assistance service, access to other operator services, access to 911 emergency services, access to interexchange (long distance) services, toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers, providing the consumer is not already receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier (including wireless providers). These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (aka the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. In addition, program rules state that no qualifying consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently. If an applying consumer is currently receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier (including a wireless provider), they will need to discontinue their benefits with the alternate carrier prior to receiving benefits from Valley Telecommunications.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Valley Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Valley Telecommunications' business office at (605) 437-2815.



PO Box 7 - 102 Main St
Herrald, SD 57632-0007
www.valleytel.net

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota)
) SS
County of Edmunds)

D.E. Gibson of said county, being, first duly sworn on oath says: That he is the publisher or an employee of the publisher of the Roscoe-Hosmer Independent, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Ipswich, in said County of Edmunds, and State of South Dakota; that he 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 Edmunds and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice, and that the advertisement headed

FEDERAL LIFELINE NOTICE

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 issues.

The First publication being made on the 21 day of Dec., 2011

The Second publication being made on the day of , 2011

The Third publication being made on the day of , 2011

The Fourth publication being made on the day of , 2011

The Fifth publication being made on the day of , 2011

That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice insures to the sole benefit of the publisher; 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:

Twenty-seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$27.50)

Signed: [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30 day of Dec, 2011

[Signature]

Notary Public - Edmunds County, South Dakota

My commission expires February 26, 2013

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PO Box 7 - 102 Main St
Harreid SD 57632-0007
www.valleytel.net

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
) ss.
County of McPherson)

[Signature], of said county and State, being first duly sworn, on oath says: That the McPherson County Herald is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, and a legal newspaper as defined by Section 7070, 1919 Revised Code printed and published in Leola in said County

and State by [Signature] and has been such newspaper during the time hereinafter mentioned, and that

I, [Signature], the undersigned am publisher of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all facts stated in this affidavit, and that the advertisement headed:

Federal Lifeline
Notice

a printed copy of which is hereto attached was printed and published in the said newspaper for 1 successive issues, to-wit: The first publication being made on

December 28th, 2011

the second on _____

the third on _____

the fourth on _____

the fifth on _____

the sixth on _____

That the full amount of the fees charged for publishing the same,

to-wit: the sum of \$ 30.00 inures solely to the benefit of the publisher of the McPherson County Herald. That no agreement or understanding of any division thereof has been made with any person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

[Signature]
Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of December, 19 2011

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission Expires 5-1-2016
My commission expires _____, 19____

Federal Lifeline Notice

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PO Box 7 - 102 Main St
Herreid SD 57632-0007
www.valleytel.net

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA }
COUNTY OF CAMPBELL } ss:

I, Leah Burke, being first duly sworn under oath say: the **Prairie Pioneer** is a legal weekly newspaper of general circulation as required by South Dakota Codified Laws, and any acts amendatory thereto, published to Allan and Leah Burke in said county and state, and has been such legal newspaper during the time hereinafter mentioned; that during all of said time as an employee or officer of said newspaper, I have had personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement headed:

Federal Lifeline Notice

Federal Lifeline Notice

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Single Party Residence Service \$15.50/month
Single Party Business Service \$15.50/month

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PO Box 7 - 102 Main St
Herreid SD 57632-0007
www.valleytel.net

Prairie Pioneer, Thursday, December 22, 2011, Page 13B

A printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in said newspaper for... successive weeks upon the following dates, to wit:

..... 12/22, 2011 , 20
..... , 20 , 20
..... , 20 , 20
..... , 20 , 20
..... , 20 , 20

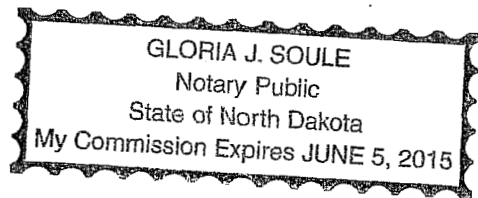
That the full amount of the fees charged for publishing the same to wit: the sum of \$65.73

inures solely to the benefit of the publishers of said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for any division of this sum has been made with any other person; and that no part of said sum has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

.....
.....

subscribed and sworn to before me this
22nd day of Dec., 2011

Gloria J. Soule



VALLEY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOP

venture communications cooperative



THE PHONE BOOK

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Blunt</i> | <i>Herreid</i> | <i>Long Lake</i> | <i>Rosholt</i> |
| <i>Bowdle</i> | <i>Highmore</i> | <i>Mound City</i> | <i>Roslyn</i> |
| <i>Britton</i> | <i>Hitchcock</i> | <i>Onaka</i> | <i>Selby</i> |
| <i>Cresbard</i> | <i>Hosmer</i> | <i>Onida</i> | <i>Seneca</i> |
| <i>Eureka</i> | <i>Hoven</i> | <i>Orient-Polo</i> | <i>Sisseton</i> |
| <i>Faulton</i> | <i>Ipswich</i> | <i>Pierpont</i> | <i>Tolstoy</i> |
| <i>Gettysburg</i> | <i>Langford</i> | <i>Pollock</i> | <i>Tulare</i> |
| <i>Glenham</i> | <i>Lebanon</i> | <i>Ree Heights</i> | <i>Wessington</i> |
| <i>Harrold</i> | <i>Leola</i> | <i>Roscoe</i> | <i>Wess. Springs</i> |

Also Includes: Huron, Pierre, Aberdeen & Other Surrounding Areas

local solution.com

2011-2012

TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN

The Program

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc. 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.

Lifeline

The Lifeline program provides a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$1.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no additional charge.

Link-Up

The Link-Up program 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.

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 to be eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program



Other Ways to Qualify

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based", and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up if your income is at, or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Current guidelines may be obtained by contacting Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc. or visit www.universalservice.org.

Income Certification

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criteria, and wish to apply for Lifeline or Link-Up Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return; a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; a Social Security statement of benefits; a Veterans Administration statement of benefits; a retirement/pension statement of benefits; and unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. (Subsection 54.410(a))

- * Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing, and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.

Could I become ineligible?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criteria.

By signing and submitting the application, 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 Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures may include random beneficiary audits, periodic submission of documents, or annual self-certification.

How to Apply

Contact Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc. to obtain an application and income certification and verification form and provide all supporting documentation to Valley's business office at: PO Box 7, 102 Main St. S., Herreid, SD 57632; or call 437-2615.

http://www.valleytel.net/corporate/

Valley Telecommunications

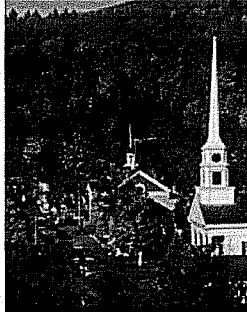
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Home Stop Page Safety Tools

SAVE RURAL BROADBAND

RURAL BROADBAND
Essential to prosperity. Vital to America.

saveruralbroadband.org



NICA
NISC
AP MAX

SecureIT Brochure
Complete Internet Security Protection, designed with simplicity in mind.

TotalTech Brochure
Virtual PC Repair from the Comfort of Home!

Valley Video Brochure

Valley Video Channel Guide

Valley Voice Mail

Voice Mail Web Access

Conference Calling User Guide

Lifeline Telephone Assistance

Lifeline Application

Corporate Information

History of Valley Telecommunications Cooperative
Proudly serving north central South Dakota for more than 54 years!

Cooperative Membership

Board of Directors

125%

9:18 AM
4/24/2012

this information is sent out when we do our yearly verification and also to any existing customers that request the information

Dear Customer:

Valley Telecommunications participates in the Lifeline Telephone assistance program. Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs:

- Medicaid
 - SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance
 - Low Income Housing Energy Assistance
 - Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
 - National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program.
- Or
- Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance.

If you are eligible for Lifeline assistance under any of the programs listed above, please complete the enclosed application.

If you qualify for Lifeline assistance based on household income, please complete the enclosed application and Income Certification Form, attach the required documentation* and return it to our office in the enclosed return envelope.

*Documentation of income eligibility includes the previous 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 that *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 require assistance completing the forms, please feel free to stop by our office at 102 Main St in Herreid or you may contact our business office @ 437-2615 and we will be happy to assist you.

Please note that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines require telephone companies, like ours, to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customers' for continued eligibility in the program. You may be required to complete the application and/or provide additional information on a yearly basis for random sampling purposes. This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. Each customer can only receive one Lifeline subsidy.

Sincerely,

Billing Department
Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc.

Enclosures

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Telephone service must be in the applicants name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible (documentation required):

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

OTHER WAYS TO QUALIFY

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based," and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up if the your income is at ,or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (2009 Guidelines extended into 2010.)

Size of Family Unit	2012 Req.
1	\$15,080
2	\$20,426
3	\$25,772
4	\$31,118
5	\$36,464
6	\$41,810
7	\$47,156
8	\$52,502

For Each Additional Person, Add \$ 5,346

THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TV

After June 12, 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 Valley Video TV subscribers. Analog sets not connected to a cable/video tv service may need additional equipment (i.e. converter box) or may have to be replaced.

Information about the DTV transition is available from www.DTV.gov and from www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-DTV-2009.

Updated 03/06/12

LIFELINE AND LINK-UP TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



VALLEY

Valley Telecommunications Coop Assn Inc.

PO Box 7 ~ 102 Main St S

Herreid SD 57632-0007

www.valleytel.net

Phone: 437-2615

Toll Free: 1-800-437-2615

Fax: 437-2220



Lifeline Assistance Application
(Please Print)

Name (Last) (First) (Middle)

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

Valley Telco Assigned Telephone Number: () -

Number where you can be reached: () -

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

1. I am applying for: Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)

NOTE: TELEPHONE SERVICE MUST BE IN APPLICANT'S NAME.

2. I am currently participating in the following program(s):
(check all that apply)

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

OR

3. My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
(documentation is required)

I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. if/when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I certify that neither I, nor anyone else in my household, is currently receiving Lifeline/LinkUp program benefits for wireless or traditional telephone service and I understand the program rules state that no qualifying consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently.

I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

Your signature Social Security Number Date

Return to: Valley Telco, PO Box 7, Herreid, SD 57632-0007

Dear Customer,

If you qualify for the Lifeline discount based on income criteria, you MUST complete this form. If you qualify based on program criteria, you DO NOT need to complete this form.

Customer Name	Customer Telephone Number	Date	Time
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****Please complete the following section and return to Valley with supporting income documentation. The documentation will be verified and certified, and may be returned to you upon your request.**

Self Certification for Lifeline/Link Up Under Income-Based Criteria

I, _____, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify
(Customer requesting Lifeline/Link-up Assistance)

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 Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household. I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc., if/when I no longer qualify for Lifeline/Link-up Assistance under the income based criteria. I certify that neither I, nor anyone else in my household, is currently receiving Lifeline/LinkUp program benefits for wireless or traditional telephone service and I understand the program rules state that no qualifying Consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently.

Customer's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Customer's Printed Name: _____

Please list the following information for all household members, including yourself.

FULL NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	AMOUNT OF INCOME CONTRIBUTED TO HOUSEHOLD	SOURCE OF INCOME
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(FOR COMPANY USE ONLY – CUSTOMER DO NOT COMPLETE)

Company Certification for Receipt of Income Supporting Documentation

I acknowledge that Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. has received self-certification and income documentation from the applicant as listed above. I certify that the documentation provided by this applicant is proprietary and for the sole purpose of verifying income-based eligibility in the Lifeline/Link-Up telephone assistance programs.

Customer Service Representative, Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc.

Witness

Date and Time

Date and Time

**Lifeline/Link-Up Income Based Self-Certification
Income Certification and Company Certification for Receipt of Income Documentation**

REV 12/20/2011

this is in our customer booklet that goes out to all of our new customers



Telephone Assistance Programs

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. 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 a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$1.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

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

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



(Continued) Telephone Assistance Programs

Other ways to qualify

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based," and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline if your income is at, or below, 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Size of Family Unit	2012 Requirements
1	\$15,080
2	\$20,426
3	\$25,772
4	\$31,118
5	\$36,464
6	\$41,810
7	\$47,156
8	\$52,502
For each additional person add:	\$ 5,346

Income Certification

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criterion, and wish to apply for Lifeline Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or a paycheck stub (at least 2 months), a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, an Unemployment/Worker's Compensation statement of benefits, federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official documentation. (Subsection 54.410(1)).

**Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.*

Telephone Services



(Continued) Telephone Assistance Programs

Could I become ineligible?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criterion.

By signing and submitting the application, you certify under penalty of perjury that you, in fact, qualify for Lifeline benefits, and if, at any time, you become ineligible, you will notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures include random surveys, presentation of supporting documentation, and self-certification.

How do I apply?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided and mail it to:

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative
PO Box 7
Herreid, SD 57632

If you are applying for assistance under the income-based criterion, you must also include the supporting documentation of income as indicated.

Lifeline Assistance Application

(Please Print)



Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (ZIP)

Valley Telco Assigned Telephone Number (____) _____ - _____

Number where you can be reached: (____) _____ - _____

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

1. I am applying for: _____ Lifeline monthly telephone service discount

NOTE: TELEPHONE SERVICE MUST BE IN APPLICANT'S NAME.

2. I am currently participating in the following program(s): (check all that apply)

_____ Medicaid (ex. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)

_____ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps)

_____ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

_____ Federal Public Housing Assistance

_____ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

_____ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

_____ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

OR

3. _____ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (documentation required)

I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. if/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 that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline assistance on my primary residential telephone line. I certify that neither I, nor anyone else in my household, is currently receiving Lifeline program benefits for wireless or traditional telephone service and I understand the program rules state that no qualifying consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently.



Your Signature

Social Security Number

Date

WHAT IS LIFELINE?

THE PROGRAM

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn, Inc. 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 a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$2.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.
- The **Link-Up** program provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This support is no longer available as of April 1, 2012.

INCOME CERTIFICATION

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criteria, and wish to apply for Lifeline or Link-Up Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, a current income statements from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, and Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. (*Subsection 54.410(a)*)

**Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing, and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.*

*****This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. Each customer can only receive one subsidy.****

COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criteria.

By signing and submitting the application, 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 Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures may include random beneficiary audits, periodic submission of documents, or annual self-certification.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided with this brochure (include documentation) and mail it to:

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative

PO Box 7

Herreid SD 57632-0007

If you are applying for assistance under the income-based criteria, you must also include the supporting documentation of income as indicated.

If you qualify for the Lifeline discount based on income criterion, you **MUST** complete this form. If you qualify based on program criterion, you **DO NOT** need to complete this form.

Customer Name

Customer Telephone Number

Date

Time

****Please complete the following section and return to Valley with supporting income documentation. The documentation will be verified and certified, and may be returned to you upon request.**

SELF CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE UNDER INCOME-BASED CRITERION

I, _____ certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline assistance based on my

(Customer requesting Lifeline/Link-Up Assistance)

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 Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household. I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. if/when I no longer qualify for Lifeline assistance under the income based criterion.

Customer's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Customer's Printed Name: _____

Please list the following information for all household members, including yourself.

Full Name	Date of Birth	Amount of Income Contributed to Household	Source of Income
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

