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6-24-13

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2013**

Company: West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Address: 801 Coleman Ave.  
Po Box 39  
Bison, SD 57620

Telephone number: 605-244-5213

Company contact: Colgan Huber

Study Area Code: 391689

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

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

\*Required

**West River Cooperative Telephone Company  
Lifeline & Link-Up Advertising/Outreach  
2012-2013**

Each month, Lifeline and Link-Up brochures were included in the new member packets. Information and applications are made available at our front desk in our central office year around. Link to Lifeline information is available on our Facebook page, under the "About" link ([www.facebook.com/WRCTC](http://www.facebook.com/WRCTC)). All newsletters are provided online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop).

June 2012

- Provided brochures at West River Telephone's booth during Grand Electric's Annual Meeting.
- Article in newsletter regarding the changes made to the Lifeline Program.

July 2012

- Short article in newsletter regarding the changes made to Lifeline Program.

August 2012

- Provided information and applications at the local fairs in Bison, Buffalo, McIntosh and Nisland.
- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Party in Newell and Buffalo.

September 2012

- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Parties in Bison, Lemmon and Faith.
- Provided information and applications at the Lemmon Junior Livestock Show.

October 2012

- Information and applications were made available at West River Cooperative Telephone's Annual Meeting.

January 2013

- Information and applications were made available for interested individuals at the Vale Ag Show in Vale, SD.

March 2013

- Information and applications were made available at the KBJM Farm & Home Show in Lemmon, SD.

May 2013

- News release was sent out to all local newspapers.
- Lifeline & Link-Up information and applications for Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Tribal Lands were sent to all surrounding clinics, health nurses, and assisted living centers if they needed them.

June 2013

- Lifeline Program information provided in the newsletter.
- Lifeline information and applications were made available at the Cooperative Day for Kids in Bison.



## **LIFELINE ACROSS AMERICA**

### **Assistance You Can Rely On**

**Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers**

#### **Background**

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

#### **What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?**

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

#### **How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?**

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8);
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF);
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance;
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR);
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met), or
- State assistance programs (if applicable).



When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the programs, call your local telephone company, state Public Utility Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

You may also visit the "Lifeline Across America" Website ([www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov)).

**Lemmon Leader**  
**Affidavit of Publication**

Published in the  
Lemmon Leader  
May 31, 2013

**State of South Dakota)**

**)SS.**

**County of Perkins**

Jennifer Marxsen of said state and county being di  
says: that she is the Office Manager of the Lemmo  
newspaper of general circulation published in the C  
county and state, that said newspaper is now the C  
the County of Perkins, South Dakota, and during t  
mentioned and headed:

Grand Electric - Life Line

printed copy of which is hereunto annexed, was p  
and entire issue of said newspaper during the per  
publication, and that notice was published in the n  
not in a supplement for 1 consecutive

**Straight Matter Lined:**

First time line Rate \$.35: \$ 3045

Second time line Rate \$.28: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Third time line Rate \$.28: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth time line Rate \$.28: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Column Inches:**

First time inch rate, \$2.80, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2013

Second time inch rate, \$2.24, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2013

Third time inch rate, \$2.24, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2013

Notary Fee: \$ 0 Total cost of legal \$ 3045

Jennifer Marxsen, Office Manager

Sworn and subscribed to before me on the 4 day of June (month)

2013, AD. Gladys M Schell Exp. Apr 3, 2015

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service  
for Income-Eligible Consumers  
Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program  
that provides discounts on monthly tele-  
phone service for eligible low-income con-  
sumers to help ensure they have the  
opportunities and security that telephone  
service affords, including being able to con-  
nect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Life-  
line is supported by the federal Universal  
Service Fund (USF).

What Benefits are Available Under the  
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scriber to limit the amount of long distance  
calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income  
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time discount of up to \$100 on the initial in-  
stallation or activation of a wireline or  
wireless telephone for the primary resi-  
dence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows  
consumers to pay the remaining amount that  
they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-  
free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-in-  
come consumers from receiving more than  
ONE Link Up discount at a primary resi-  
dence. Eligible consumers may be eligible  
for Link Up again only after moving to a  
or to find out if you qualify for the pro-  
grams, call your local telephone company,  
state Public Utility Commission, or the Fed-  
eral Communications Commission at 1-888-  
CALL-FCC. You may also visit the  
"Lifeline Across America" Web site  
[www.lifeline.gov].



Anna Stambach recently received a \$1000 scholarship from Northern Plains as part of the company's scholarship program

democratic performance is high, and have demonstrated the qualities of leadership, industry, integrity and good high school and community citizenship.

SD, they serve more than 6,200 active customers through their eight locations in north central South Dakota and south central North Dakota.

**WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY**  
PO BOX 39 – BISON, SD 57620 – 605-244-5213

**Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers**

**Background**

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Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

**How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?**

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8);
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF);
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance;
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR);
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or
- State assistance programs (if applicable).

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the programs, call your local telephone company, state Public Utility Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-CALL-FCC. You may also visit the "Lifeline Across America" Web site

[[www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov)].

Phone answered 7 days a week

**(605) 347-7582**

**Pam Weierke**

[pweierke@yahoo.com](mailto:pweierke@yahoo.com)



**I THOUGHT I WAS TIGHT  
WITH MY MONEY. NOW  
I'M AIRTIGHT.**

All it took was a tube of caulk and an afternoon. Now, I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks around the house. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)



TOGETHER WE SAVE



## School Signs Operational

Calling on You  
Newsletter  
June 2012



The school signs in Newell and Buffalo are in place and operational! With the help of Olson Construction in Buffalo and Butte Electric Cooperative and Boom Concrete in Newell, the two communities have a new LED message board, which will be utilized to display different messages throughout the summer. We hope each 788-2818 community enjoys these new signs donated by WRCTC and Grand Electric.

Photo above courtesy of Colleen Brunner. Photos below courtesy of Wally Stephens.



## Call Completion Test Results

West River Cooperative Telephone Company was a participant in the Rural Association's National Call Completion Test 257-2663 which was conducted April 9th through the 13th. This test was designed to gauge the current level of call completion issues affecting our industry. The test was jointly conducted by NECA, NTCA, OPASTCO and WTA (the rural associations). West River Cooperative Telephone Company provided a test line and a number of people to answer calls during the test period. The results are back and there were 98 calls placed to our test line and 80 of those were completed with no issues. There were six calls that did not connect, there were nine which were poor quality and there were three that had a delayed setup. The rural associations mentioned above provided West River Cooperative Telephone Company with a list of the carriers who had these issues and we are currently in the process of contacting them to get the issues resolved. After all of the carriers have been contacted, we will be providing the rural associations with our results to help resolve the call completion issues that have plagued our industry over the past few years.

## Lifeline Program Changes

Lifeline and Link Up telephone programs have been available for several years to qualifying customers of WRCTC. Due to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) release in February of the Lifeline Reform Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), the Lifeline program has changed and the Link Up program has been eliminated for most telecommunications companies, 244-5467 including WRCTC. The Link Up program provided eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service.

*(continued on back page)*



## New WRCTC Members Lifeline Program (continued)

Calling on You  
Newsletter  
June 2012

### Buffalo, Camp Crook

Kawanesicayuga, Kaileen	375-3299
Odell, Shaine & Cassidy	375-3896
Reinhard, Jason & Ashly	375-3471

### Lemmon

Alarie, Jessica	374-4222
Casey, Breanna	374-4228
Gene's Repair	374-3991
Herlofsky, Andrew	374-4223
Hochhalter, Harvey & Carol	376-7304
Hodgson, Dave	374-4225
Modern Expressions	374-4226
Robinson, Eugene	374-3809
Thompson, Thomas	374-4227
Zorc, Preston	374-4224

### Newell

Conway, Melissa	456-3555
Hughes, Harry & Mary Lou	456-3488
McDonald, Levi	456-3544

### Nisland

Pate, Curt & Tammy	257-2845
Stark, Stephanie	257-2388

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. To be eligible, customers must qualify under one of these economic assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

When you qualify for any of 375-3951 the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. Only one Lifeline service is available per household.

**If you currently participate in the Lifeline Assistance Program, you will need to re-certify by completing the paperwork which will be sent to you sometime after June 1.**

If you no qualify for any of the economic programs above, then you must contact our office to discontinue this Lifeline discount.

For more information, please call our office at 605-244-5213.

**WRCTC will be closed Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.**

## Find Your Phone Number

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in the last newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Mike Colville, Lemmon; Jack Gully, Newell; Lyle Parfrey, Buffalo; Rich Plaggemeyer, Meadow and Edward Schmidt, Lemmon. Hidden in this issue are ten new numbers. If you find your number, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$10 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. New connect numbers do not count. **Deadline is June 21, 2012.**

**\$10**  
**bill credit**





## Tipperary Lodge

(continued)

bedroom guest house next to the motel several years ago. Gus shared the story that at one point they used to have oil field workers who stayed for long periods of time. One winter they were faced with asking the oil field workers to leave to make room for the hunters. Rather than having that happen again, they bought a four-bedroom double wide and within 10 days had it up and running. This avoided having to disappoint any customers in the future. The double wide now functions as an overflow option or for special occasions such as weddings or 866-4691 reunions.

When staying at the Tipperary, you'll find exceptionally clean rooms and friendly service. Free wireless internet is available, as well as cable TV and all the accommodations a traveler can expect. Diane is 972-4571 there at 5 a.m. to greet morning customers. Coffee and muffins are available from 6 a.m. until 9 a.m. When Diane isn't there, you'll find Gus taking care of the business and its demanding needs. A night shift worker takes over in the evening hours to keep the business open 24-hours a day.

One of the best aspects of the business, according to the Havaila's, is meeting the people from all over the world and the United States. They have enjoyed being in the business, but explained they are ready to be able to have a less demanding schedule. "This has been a remarkable adventure." Diane explained, "It's a necessary service no community should be without." For more information on the Tipperary Lodge, please contact 605-375-3721.

## Lifeline Program Gets an Overhaul

On May 1, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission reformed and modernized the Lifeline Program. Effective July 1, 2012, Federal Lifeline support credit has increased from \$8.25 to \$9.25. Please 456-1503 also be aware that the updated Lifeline program has revised the eligibility requirements and criteria, which may require our lifeline subscribers to provide additional 375-3960 information and certifications to confirm continued eligibility. For more information and an application, please visit our website at [www.wrtc.coop](http://www.wrtc.coop) or contact us at 605-244-5213 or 777.



Meet the owners of the Tipperary Lodge Motel - Gene "Gus" and Diane Haivala.

## From the Mailbox



On behalf of the Newell School District Board of Education, Staff & Students, "We love our new sign! Many Thanks!"

WRTC, The digital sign at the Newell School looks mighty fine. Thank you. I enjoy checking all the information as we drive highway 79.

Helen Erk, Newell

Thank you so much for the scholarship you awarded to me! It is greatly appreciated because it helps 244-7415 a lot. Thank you,

Cami Feist, Ludlow

Thank you for the \$10 discount on my bill.

Viola Chiller, Vale ("Calling on You" Newsletter Lucky Number Winner)

Thank you for the five hundred dollar scholarship. I am so happy that you choose me for your scholarship. I will represent your company at 257-2374 the School of Mines with a determination to get my college education. I thank you again for choosing me. Sincerely,

Royce Haines, Faith



# Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

*Calling on You Newsletter  
June 2013*

## Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, 375-3470 family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

## What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a 866-4663 separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

## How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in 456-2733 every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- State assistance programs (if applicable).

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.

## Promotion



Pam Kolb was recently promoted to the Administrative Assistant/Benefits Administrator position. Pam began her career with WRCTC and Grand Electric on May 1, 1995 as a Customer 257-2778 Service Representative.

Pam's new job responsibilities include providing secretarial and administrative assistance for Manager Reisenauer, preparing reports for board meetings, making travel arrangements for employees and directors and coordinating human resource activities.

Pam and her husband, Jeff, farm and ranch southwest of Bison. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Alyssa and her husband Marty and one son Eric and his wife Liz. They have five grandchildren: Blake, Eli, Emma, Jaden and Addison. In her spare time, Pam enjoys spending time with family, 375-3791 traveling and gardening. Congratulations Pam!

# Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form

(Please Print or Type)

Company Name: West River Cooperative Telephone Company

SPIN: 143002255

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Do not use a P.O. Box address.)

Is your residential address a permanent address? Yes  No

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from residential address.)

Social Security Number (last four digits): \_\_\_\_\_ (If you are a member of a Tribal nation and do not have a social security number, you may provide your Tribal identification number.)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (if existing service)

Telephone number where you can be reached or receive messages: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving Lifeline assistance through any other telephone provider? Yes  No

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

I, one or more of my dependents, or my household currently participates in one or more of the following programs:  
(Check all that apply.) Must include a copy of at least one document.

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Energy Home Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- OR My household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The number of individuals in my household is: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name of eligible person if different than the applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not participate in one or more of the programs listed above, you may qualify for Lifeline if your household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).

## 2013 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,512	5	\$37,220
2	\$20,939	6	\$42,647
3	\$26,366	7	\$48,074
4	\$31,793	8	\$53,501

For each additional person after 8, add \$5,427 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 78 No. 16, January 24, 2013, pp. 5182-5183



## Important Information

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility before receiving Lifeline service.

Lifeline is a federal government assistance benefit and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program.

Only one Lifeline service is available per household. A household is defined, for the purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. A household may include related and unrelated persons. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and possible prosecution by the United States government. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

### I certify, under penalty of perjury, that (initial each statement):

\_\_\_\_(1) I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in 47 C.F.R. § 54.409. I have provided documentation of eligibility;

\_\_\_\_(2) I understand that I must notify the carrier within 30 days if, for any reason, I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, I am receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit and that I may be penalized for failing to do so;

\_\_\_\_(3) If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the telephone company within 30 days;

\_\_\_\_(4) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;

\_\_\_\_(5) I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(e)(4);

\_\_\_\_(6) I give West River Telephone Company permission to give my name, telephone number, and address to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) or its agent to confirm that my household only receives one Lifeline benefit. If USAC finds that my household receives more than one Lifeline benefit, USAC will notify the telephone companies, and I will have to select one service and I will be de-enrolled from the other.

By signing below, I attest that the information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Provide the completed Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form and proof of eligibility to West River Cooperative Telephone Company, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.*



## Tribal Lifeline & Link Up Assistance Application and Certification Form

(Please Print or Type)

Company Name: **West River Cooperative Telephone Company**

SPIN: **143002255**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Do not use a P.O. Box address.)*

Is your residential address a permanent address? Yes  No

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*(If different from residential address.)*

Social Security Number (last four digits): \_\_\_\_\_ If you are a member of a Tribal nation and do not have a social security number, you may provide your Tribal identification number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ *(if existing service)*

Telephone number where you can be reached or receive messages: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving Lifeline assistance through any other telephone provider? Yes  No

I am applying for:

Tribal Lifeline *(monthly telephone service discount)*

Tribal Link Up *(telephone connection charge discount)*

*“Tribal lands” are defined as any federally-recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo or colony; Indian Allotments; and areas that fall outside the boundaries of existing Tribal lands but have been designated by the Federal Communications Commission as Tribal lands for the purpose of receiving Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up support.*

I am applying as an individual living on “tribal lands”: Yes  No

I, one or more of my dependents, or my household currently participates in one or more of the following programs: *(Check all that apply.) Must include a copy of at least one document.*

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Tribal TANF
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- OR** My household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The number of individuals in my household is: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name of eligible person if different than the applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not participate in one or more of the programs listed above, you may qualify for Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up if your household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).

**2013 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines**

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,512	5	\$37,220
2	\$20,939	6	\$42,647
3	\$26,366	7	\$48,074
4	\$31,793	8	\$53,501

For each additional person after 8, add \$5,427 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 78 No. 16, January 24, 2013, pp. 5182-5183

**Important Information**

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility before receiving Lifeline service.

Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up are federal government assistance benefits and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefits can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment, or being barred from the programs.

Only one Lifeline service is available per household. A household is defined, for the purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An “economic unit” consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. A household may include related and unrelated persons. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission’s rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and possible prosecution from the United States government. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

**I certify, under penalty of perjury, that (initial each statement):**

\_\_\_\_ (1) I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in 47 C.F.R. § 54.409. I have provided documentation of eligibility if required to do so;

\_\_\_\_ (2) I understand that I must notify the carrier within 30 days if, for any reason, I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, I am receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit and that I may be penalized for failing to do so;

\_\_\_\_ (3) If I am seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, I live on Tribal lands, as defined in 47 C.F.R § 54.400(e);

\_\_\_\_ (4) If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the telephone company within 30 days;

\_\_\_\_ (5) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;

\_\_\_\_ (6) I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(e)(4);

\_\_\_\_ (7) ) I give West River Telephone Company permission to give my name, telephone number, and address to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) or its agent to confirm that my household only receives one Lifeline benefit. If USAC finds that my household receives more than one Lifeline benefit, USAC will notify the telephone companies, and I will have to select one service and I will be de-enrolled from the other.

By signing below, I attest that the information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Provide the completed Lifeline and Tribal Link Up Application and Certification Form and proof of eligibility to West River Cooperative Telephone Company, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.