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

Company: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (FKA Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Co. d/b/a ITC)

Address: PO Box 920 312 4<sup>th</sup> St W Clear Lake, SD 57226

Telephone number: <u>605-874-2181</u>

Company contact: Jim Canaan

Study Area Code: 391679

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

<u>X</u>	Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)				
<u>x</u>	Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up.* (See attached letter.)				
<u>x</u>	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.				
<u>x</u>	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. www.itc-web.com				
	Company's information posted on USAC website.				
х	Other (describe): Listed on SD PUC website				

\*Required

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC) offers local exchange telecommunications service to all consumers in its service area.

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

This service provides subscribing customers with:

-Voice grade access to the public switched network
-Single party service
-Dual tone multi-frequency signaling
-Flat rated local exchange service free of per minute charges
-Access to 911 emergency services
-Access to operator services
-Access to interexchange (long distance) service
-Access to directory assistance
-Toll blocking/Toll limitation

Low-Income Assistance Programs are available for qualifying customers. These programs provide for monthly service discounts on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), the National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low Income Housing Energy Assistance, or Federal Public Housing Assistance. Subscribers whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines also qualify for this assistance. Additional Low Income Assistance is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. The Enhanced Low Income Programs available to consumers living on Tribal Lands provide for additional telephone services discounts, and, in addition to the previously cited programs, participation in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program qualifies them for this support.

Questions regarding any of the above services should be directed to ITC at 1-800-417-8667.



By Kathy Weitala

This month, we would like you to meet Derek Benck. He, his wife, and four boys live in Clear Lake. With 17 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, Derek knows his way around the business. Derek's first job at ITC was in construction. From there he worked several years as an Installer Repair Technician (IR Tech).



For the past five years he has worked as a Business Services Technician (Bus Tech). Like many of his co-workers, Derek enjoys the variety that comes with his position. "I like not knowing what tomorrow will bring," says Derek.

Technology is rapidly changing in this industry. Derek would like to tell his customers, "Don't be intimidated; it's really not that bad." If asked about his favorite ITC service, he would say DVR. Derek provides service to businesses throughout the ITC territory. He enjoys the time he spends working with customers.

Derek has had a few interesting things happen over the course of his 17 years on the job. After recently stepping through a ceiling, he was reminded of another similar incident. He was working up in an attic a few years ago. He had just taken his first step when he suddenly found himself falling through the ceiling and ended



up back on the floor below. I bet that was a surprise! Lucky for him, he survived the incident without any major issues.

There is not much free time for Derek. Between coaching youth basketball for the last six years, helping to establish a tackle football program for grades 3-6, and coaching the 13-14 year-olds for baseball, free time is a luxury. Derek is also the Secretary/Treasurer for the Clear Lake Fire Department.

Next time you see Derek out and about, say hello!

## Telecommunications Assistance Offered Through Programs

Lifeline is a federal program that provides a monthly discount on telephone service to qualified low-income residents. Lifeline is designed to ensure that telephone service remains affordable to all residents.

The Lifeline assistance program provides a \$9.25 credit on the monthly telephone bill.

You may qualify for Lifeline if your total household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines; or if you, your dependent, or your household receives one of the following:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch free lunch program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Lifeline is available on one telephone line per household. If you or someone in your household has Lifeline on a wireless phone, then you cannot get it on your home phone too. You may not transfer your Lifeline discount to another person, even if he or she qualifies for Lifeline. If you believe you qualify for Lifeline, stop by the ITC office and fill out an application form or call our office at 1-800-417-8668 for assistance. Please note that you must enroll in Lifeline service and you must provide proof of eligibility before receiving support.

Qualifying residents of Tribal lands may receive additional discounts. To find out more about either of these programs, please contact ITC at 1-800-417-8667.

## Cooperatively Speaking

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

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Have you ever wondered what the difference is between the two speeds listed on Internet package, for example 6M/1M? The first number is the download speed and the second is your upload speed. What does that mean? Essentially, the difference between the two is the direction of the data transfer.

The download speed is information coming to your computer. Whether you are receiving emails, surfing the Internet, or downloading music, the information from the Internet is coming to you. This download speed is usually what people use the most.

Upload is the speed where the information goes from your computer to the Internet. If you are emailing photos to your family or sending your photos to a site for printing, the info is going from your computer to the Internet.

No matter if you use more download or upload, make sure you have the right speed for your needs. If you have any questions about Internet speeds, give ITC a call at 1-800-417-8867.



ITC University's next class "All About Photos" Part II begins in June. Join us to learn all about editing your photos! If you missed Part I, you can still attend. Class size is limited so call 1-800-417-8667 today sign up! Laptops are provided.

Class locations: Milbank - June 11, Clear Lake - June 19, Brookings - June 26. Call for class times.

### Internet 911

# Wi-Fi Safety

By Bill Renneker, Internet Systems Administrator

ireless Internet, known as the catchy name "Wi-Fi," is something that many of us depend upon at home, at work, and or while traveling. Wi-Fi is only a term, not an acronym. People are often unsure how safe it is to use a public Wi-Fi network when traveling. Hopefully these tips will be helpful.

#### Safety Tips

- Older computers are not as secure as newer models... the outdated operating systems in old computers simply are not as secure as newly designed systems, and the wireless networking components in them do not use the latest, strongest encryption technology, which is important. If your machine runs on Windows XP, it's probably time to upgrade.
- Keep your system updated with the latest software updates (Windows Update, etc.).
- Use very strong passwords for everything (ten characters or more if possible, using mixture of upper/lower case letters, numerals, and special characters). Don't use recognizable words or number sequences in your passwords.
- Don't share. Turn off file and printer sharing in the network settings of your computer.
- Don't automatically connect to just any Wi-Fi network. If you're staying at a motel and intend to use their Wi-Fi service, make sure you're connecting to their network, and not something else.
- Disconnect the wireless network when you're not using it. Don't leave it
  on unnecessarily overnight or while away. You can shut the computer
  down, or continue to use the computer with the wireless network disabled
  if you wish.
- Make sure you have an active security program suite (antivirus, antispyware, firewall) installed on your computer. Make sure it is updated and actively running.
- Watch for onlookers in public places, who may be watching for you to log into something, attempting to steal your password.
- Avoid if possible using public Wi-Fi networks for financial transactions. If you must use a public Wi-Fi network to make purchases (reserve a hotel room, etc.), or really need to do some banking business online, the most secure way is use a VPN (Virtual Private Network). A VPN "tunnels" your data through a secure, private channel. Try to find and use extra security measures and/or apps from your bank, which may include VPN access, if you need to make financial transactions.
- Watch for the "https" encryption padlock while making a transaction. This
  means that your password for that site will be sent securely encrypted
  across the network.
- A hotel that requires purchasing Internet service, or one that requires a password, is likely to be safer than using a public Wi-Fi "hotspot" somewhere.
- Consider purchasing a "Personal VPN" service (there are also some services available for limited free use), which will keep your information more secure in the public Wi-Fi arena. This Computer World article is a good source for further reading: http://www.computerworld.com/s/ article/9205401/3\_personal\_VPNs\_offer\_safer\_Wi\_Fi.

#### **Remit Top Portion Of Bill With Payment**

When sending payment to ITC, customers should return the TOP portion of the bill that says, "PLEASE TEAR ALONG PERFORATION AND REMIT WITH PAYMENT."

#### **Important Dates**

Bills are mailed on the first of each month, and payment is due on the 19th of that month, unless otherwise indicated on the "Due Date" portion of your statement. Prompt payment is required. NO PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE GRANTED.

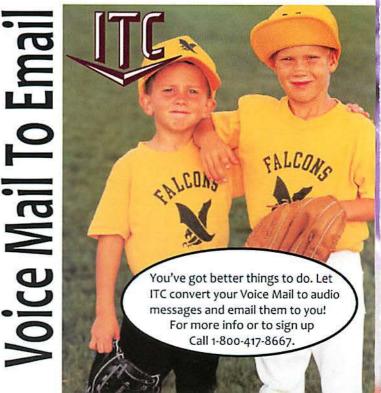
May 31 -----Bills mailed from ITC June 19------Payment due June 19------Final notices mailed July 9-------Disconnect day for the following prefixes: 272, 275, 277, 368, 479, 483, 489, 542, 548, 

# Rent A Movie Tonight!



to The Great and Powerful © 2013 Disney. All highlis reserved Jack the Giant Slayer © 2013 New Line Productions. Inc. Kenthy Theil © 2013 Universal Studios, All Rights Reserved on Planet Earth ©2013 Except Films TWC LCC. All Rights Reserved: A Good Day to Dia Hant © 2013 Twentieth Carthon For Film Conversion. All orbits reserved







2013

Dear Customer:

You currently participate in Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative's Lifeline assistance program. Federal Communications Commission guidelines require telephone companies like ours to annually certify that our subscribers are eligible for the Lifeline discount.

Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF); or the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance. If you are still eligible for Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application or if you no longer qualify please give us a call so we can discontinue your lifeline discount.

Subscribers will be asked to certify that they meet the eligibility requirements for the program, are only receiving one discount for their household and that what they are reporting is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

Please note: income is all income actually received by <u>all</u> 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. Only one lifeline service allowed per household. Lifeline can only be applied to one wireless or wireline telephone per household.

Our offices are located at: 312 4th St. W in Clear Lake; 1022 Main Ave. S in Brookings; 107 2nd Ave. NW in Clark; 14 E. 7th Ave. in Webster and 401 S Main St in Milbank. All other applicants recertifying are welcome to drop the application and documentation off at one of our offices, or you may mail them back to us in the enclosed return envelope.

Please feel free to call me at 1-800-395-4656 with any questions you may have regarding the application or the Lifeline program.

Sincerely,

Julie Donahue Customer Service Representative

Enclosures



Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form

(Please Print or Type)

Company Name		SPIN			
Last Name:	First Name:	Mio	ddle Initial:		
Residential Address: (Do not use a P.O. Box address.)	City:	State:	ZIP:		
	ent address? Yes No _				
Billing Address: (If different from residential address	City:	State:	ZIP:		
	gits):(a ou may provide your Tribal identification				
Date of Birth:					
Telephone Number:	(if existing service)				
Telephone number where you can be	e reached or receive messages:				
Are you currently receiving Lifeline	assistance through any other telephone	provider? Yes _	No		
I am applying for:Lifeli	ne (monthly telephone service discount)	)			
Toll I	Limitation Service (free toll blocking or	toll control)			
I, one or more of my dependents, or (Check all that apply.)	my household currently participates in	one or more of the fo	bllowing programs:		
Supplemental Nutrition Ass           Supplemental Security Inco           Federal Public Housing Ass           Low-Income Energy Home           Temporary Assistance for N           National School Lunch Prog           OR My household income in           my household is:	istance (Section 8) Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Jeedy Families (TANF) gram's Free Lunch Program s at or below 135% of the Federal Pove	rty Guidelines. The r			
	e Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table		ie gyour nousenoid		

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

2012 Haalth and Human Camilaas Deventy Cuidelines

#### **Important Information**

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

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. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

### I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:

(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 will 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;

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

(4) If I provided a temporary residential address to the telephone company, I will be required to verify my temporary residential address every 90 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 acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and

(8) The information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(9) I acknowledge and give consent that my name, telephone number, and address will be divulged to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and/or its agents for the purpose of verifying that the subscriber does not receive more than one lifeline benefit.

Signature

Date

Provide the completed application and certification form to your phone company. Your telephone company will contact you for any additional information needed to prove eligibility.

For more information about Lifeline, see www.PUC.SD.gov/Lifeline



Number in

Residence

1

2

3

4

135% Guideline (Annual)

\$15,512

\$20,939

\$26,366

\$31,793

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

	(Please Print of	r Type)		
Company Name			PIN	
Last Name:	First Name:		Middle Ini	tial:
Residential Address:				
(Do not use a P.O. Box address.) Is your residential address a permanent addre Billing Address:	ess? Yes City:	No Stat	te:	ZIP:
(If different from residential address.)				
Social Security Number (last four digits):	If	you are a member of	f a Tribal n	ation and do not have a
social security number, you may provide you	ur Tribal identificatio	on number:		
Date of Birth:	Telephone Numb	er:		(if existing service)
Telephone number where you can be reached				
Are you currently receiving Lifeline assistan	ice through any other	telephone provider?	Yes	No
Tribal Lifeline (monthly telephone ser Tribal Link Up (telephone connection I am applying as an individual living on "tril ("Tribal lands" are defined as any federally	<i>charge discount)</i> bal lands": Yes	No		
and areas that fall outside the boundaries of Communications Commission as Tribal land I, one or more of my dependents, or my hou (Check all that apply.)	f existing Tribal land. Is for the purpose of	s but have been desig receiving Tribal Life	gnated by tl line and Tr	he Federal ibal Link Up support.)
Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical S         Supplemental Security Income (SSI         Federal Public Housing Assistance of         Supplemental Nutrition Assistance of         Low-Income Home Energy Assistant         Temporary Assistance for Needy Fa         National School Lunch Program's F         Bureau of Indian Affairs General As         Tribally-Administered Temporary A         Head Start (if income eligibility critt         Food Distribution Program on India         OR My household income is at or b         my household is:	) (Section 8) Program (SNAP, form nee Program (LIHEA milies (TANF) Free Lunch Program ssistance Assistance for Needy eria are met) n Reservations elow 135% of the Fe	nerly known as Food P) Families (TTANF) deral Poverty Guidel	ines. The r	
Up if your household income does not excee				

2013 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

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

Number in

Residence

5

6

7

8

135% Guideline (Annual)

\$37,220

\$42,647

\$48,074

\$53,501

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

#### **Important Information**

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

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. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

### I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:

(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 will 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;

(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) If I provided a temporary residential address to the telephone company, I will be required to verify my temporary residential address every 90 days;

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

(7) 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);

(8) I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and

(9) The information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

(10) I acknowledge and give consent that my name, telephone number, and address will be divulged to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and/or its agents for the purpose of verifying that the subscriber does not receive more than one lifeline benefit.

Signature

Date

Provide the completed application and certification form to your local phone company. Your telephone company will contact you for any additional information needed to prove eligibility.

For more information about Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up, see www.PUC.SD.gov/TribalLifeline

### Directory Page

# **General Information**



### RULES FOR ORDING D-WAY EPHONE VVERSATIONS

FCC requires one of llowing options to be then a person wishes to a telephone conversa-

mission must be uned from all parties lved before a conversacan be recorded. eptone" warning ces must be sounded at lar intervals during the rding of a conversation. ividuals involved in the ersation being recordnust notify all parties a conversation is being rded either at the beginof, or during, the conition.

Federal ommunications Commission 445 12th St SW shington, DC 20554 202-418-0190 www.fcc.gov

anonymous or otherwise, if in a manner reasonably to be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another, or for calls that ... interfere unreasonably with the use of the service by one or more other customers, or calls for...unlawful purpose. Upon violation of any of these conditions the telephone company can, by written notice, discontinue service forthwith. These tariff regulations are filed with this Commission pursuant to Section 203 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 203, and are binding on the telephone company and customer alike. Users of the telephone service are also subject to the enforcement proceedings provided for in Sections 401 and 411 of the Communications Act. In addition to the loss of telephone service for violation of the tariffs, Section 223 of the Communications Act makes it a crime to use the telephone in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign communications to make "repeated telephone calls, during which conversation ensues, solely to harass any person at the called number" or to knowingly permit "others to use his/her telephone" for such purpose. Penalties for violation of Section 223 are a fine up to \$500.00 or six months' imprisonment, or both, 47 U.S.C. 223.

The Commission is concerned that some users of telephone service may be unaware of their obligations to refrain from using the service for abusive or harassing calls. It is also concerned that other users may be willfully and repeatedly violating the provision of the tariffs and the applicable statutes, and that the telephone companies are not adequately enforcing their tariffs. Accordingly, the Commission is issuing this Public Notice in order that the public may be informed of the requirements of law in this area and so that users may be alerted to their legal obligations in the use of the telephone and the penalties for failure to abide thereby.



Lifeline Service support provides discounts to eligible low income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. A household is eligible for only one lifeline credit, which may be applied to landline or wireless service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. Eligible residents of tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support.

Tribal Link-Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 100% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$100.

Eligibility of Lifeline support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline and Link-Up if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state.

# Lifeline And Link-Up

To be eligible for these programs the telephone service must be in the applicant's name. An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Food Stamps
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her Temporary Assistance for Needy Families household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

If you fall into one of these examples, contact 800-417-8667.