

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

Company: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company
Address: 101 N. 3rd Street
Beresford, SD 57004
Telephone number: 605/763-2500
Company contact: Todd Hansen, General Manager
Study Area Code: 391649

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/ Tribal Link Up.* (See attached letter.)
- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. (www.bmtc.net)
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): Posted on public office bulletin board
- _____
- _____

*Required

erations, LLC, 2200 E. Hwy 50,
Yankton, SD, 57078, or e-mail to

to work and a beautiful place to
live. Visit our website for more
information at www.regional-health.com and apply on-line.

pick up an application at
606 West Cedar, Beresford, SD 57004



For Rent in Beresford:

- * 1 Bedroom Apt. at Evergreen Square, Kary House, Sunview
Rent based on income
- * 1 Bedroom Apt. at Oakwood \$385.00 plus electricity
- * 2 Bedroom Apt. at Evergreen Square, just remodeled \$595.00
no steps, new appliances, walk-in shower, very spacious

Equal Housing Opportunity
Contact 763-5349 or
Skogen Company, 605-263-3941

Carlson's BODY SHOP, LLC

Beresford, SD

- 24 Hour Towing Service
- Complete Tire & Auto Service Center Onsite
- Windshield Replacement Repair
- Paint & Finish

605.763.2472



www.carlsonsbodyshop.com

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Rates and Lifeline and Link Up Program

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Line Residence Service	\$15.56
Single Line Business Service	\$26.06
Multi Line Business Service	\$29.25

Local resident and business service includes:

- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
- Single-party flat-rated local service free of per minute charges
- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch-tone) service
- Access to directory assistance services
- 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. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in at least one of the following programs or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps program)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance

Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in BMTC's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunication services, please call BMTC's office at 605/763-2500.

NOTICE

TO ALL BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY CUSTOMERS

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide two federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

- The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify
- The Link Up program provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Subscribers must have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

Medicaid	Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Food Stamps	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Housing Assistance	Temporary Aid to Needy Families
National School Lunch free lunch program	

WHAT DO THE PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a waiver of the \$6.50 monthly Subscriber Line Charge and an additional credit of \$1.75 each month on the basic service portion of the telephone bill. The waiver and credit apply on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers also may receive blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line at no charge.

Link Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of 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 the home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. In addition, if you qualify because your household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, documentation is required. More details on this documentation requirement and application forms are available at our office at: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company; 101 North 3rd Street; Beresford, SD 57004.

COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

When you no longer are eligible to participate in any of the above assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline or Link Up. You are obligated by law to notify Beresford Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline and Link Up.

Added on Bulletin Board

Notice to Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Customers
May 1, 2012

Lifeline and **Toll Blocking** support are available from Beresford Municipal Telephone Company. These programs provide 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. It provides eligible consumers with a credit of \$9.25 each month on the basic service portion of the telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber.

Toll Blocking allows eligible consumers to choose this option at no cost.

Customers are eligible if they participate in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines. **Consumers who qualify based on household income must provide supporting documentation. Please note: 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 & lottery winnings. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing & cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs such as babysitting or lawn mowing.

If you would like more information or would like to apply for this low-income assistance, please contact BMTC 763-2500 or stop by our office at 120 E. Main Street.

Bill Incent

Toll Fraud - cont'd

U.S. CODE, TITLE 18 Section 1343

Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communication in interstate commerce, and writings, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

Section 1343, as passed by the Fifty-Second Session of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, provides the following:

Whoever, in owning or having control of any pipes, wires, cables, or other facilities for the transmission of gas, oil, electricity, water, communications, or other products or services, buried beneath the surface of the ground, including areas within the limits of any subdivision, shall give written notice thereof to the office of the register of deeds in the county where the facilities are located.

The register of deeds of each county where the facilities described are buried shall establish and maintain a uniform file system containing the information furnished by the owner or person in control of these facilities.

Whoever, in intending to conduct any digging, grading, leveling, excavating, blasting, or similar work upon the lands described in the notice shall request the person owning or controlling the lands to accurately locate them upon the land where they are situated, at least ten days before the commencement of the activity, not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the commencement of the activity.

Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Services

Lifeline and Toll Limitation Service support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers who establish and maintain telephone service. **Note:** Telecommunications carriers do not charge Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the local service portion of their telephone bill.

How much discount is available?

Lifeline support lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$25 per month in discounts.

Consumers on Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support to pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Lifeline support lowers the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount on the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$100. Consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$100.

Consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 per month to offset the charges between \$60 and \$130.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS) support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance charges to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

How do I know if I am eligible?

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that

Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Services - cont'd

provide the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not provide state support, an individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

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

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discounts, please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 101 N. 3rd, Beresford, SD 57004 or (605)763-2500.

Use Of Telephone For Debt Collection Purposes

The Federal Communications Commission has received information that interstate telephone service is being used for collection of claimed debts in ways that are or may be in violation of applicable tariffs of the telephone companies and criminal statutes. Practices alleged include calling at odd hours of the day or night; repeated calls; calls to friends, neighbors, relatives, employers, and children; calls making a variety of threats; calls asserting falsely that credit ratings will be hurt; calls falsely stating that legal process is about to be served; calls demanding payments for amounts not owed; calls to places of employment; and calls misrepresenting the terms and conditions of existing or proposed contracts. Although many of these calls are placed on a local basis, there is increasing indication that such improper practices also involve use of interstate toll and Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS).

Tariffs of the telephone companies forbid use of the telephone "... for a call or calls, anonymous or otherwise, 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 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.

