

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2016**

Company: _____ Midstate Communications, Inc. _____

Address: _____ 120 East First St PO Box 48 _____

_____ Kimball SD 57355 _____

Telephone number: _____ 605-778-6221 _____

Company contact: _____ Kathy Taylor _____

Study Area Code: _____ 399011 _____

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.midstatesd.net)

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): _____

*Required

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_____ Kimball SD 57355 _____
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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.midstatesd.net)
- _____ Company's information posted on USAC website.
- _____ Other (describe): _____

*Required

Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form

(Please Print or Type)

Company Name: **Midstate Communications & Midstate Telecom**

SPIN: **14007716 & 143030709**

Account Name: _____

Residential Address: _____

(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)
_____ Toll Limitation Service (free toll blocking or toll control) **Minimum of \$9.25**
_____ Tribal Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)

Are you currently living on Reservation Land? _____ 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.) You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

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

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

2015 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,889	5	\$38,353
2	\$21,505	6	\$43,969
3	\$27,121	7	\$49,585
4	\$32,737	8	\$55,201

For each additional person after 8, add \$5,616 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 80 No. 14 January 22, 2015, pp. 3236-3237

Important Information

You **will** be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

Lifeline, 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 purpose 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 provide a temporary residential address to the telephone company, I will be required to verify my temporary residential address every 90 days;
- (6) The individual named on the documentation provided demonstrating program-based eligibility, if not me, is part of my household;
- (7) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and (including cell phone service), to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;
- (8) 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);
- (9) I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (10) The information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Provide the completed application and certification from to your phone company. Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom will contact you for any additional information needed to prove eligibility.

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

Consent to Provide Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Subscriber Information to the National Lifeline Accountability Database

The Federal Communications Commission has established the National Lifeline Accountability Database ("Database") to detect and prevent consumers from receiving more than one discounted telephone service under the federal Lifeline program.

Under federal law, Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom is required to check/query this Database prior to signing up Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscribers and is also required to provide to the federal administrator of this Database the following information regarding each new and existing Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber:

- * The Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's full name;
- * The Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's full residential Address;
- * The Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's date of birth;
- * The last four digits of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's Social Security number or Tribal Identification Number (if the subscriber is a Tribal member and does not have a Social Security number);
- * The telephone number associated with the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service;
- * The date on which the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service was initiated;
- * The date on which the Lifeline service was terminated (if applicable);
- * The amount of Lifeline service support being sought for the subscriber;
- * The means through which the subscriber qualified for Lifeline service (income or program-based, Medicaid, etc.)

The above information related to your Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service is being provided by Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom to the federal administrator (the "Universal Service Administrative Company" and/or its agents) of the National Lifeline Accountability Database to verify that you, as a Lifeline/Tribal Link Up applicant and/or subscriber, are not receiving more than one Lifeline/Tribal Link Up benefit, and to otherwise ensure proper administration of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up program.

I, the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up applicant/subscriber, acknowledge that Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom will transmit to the federal administrator of the National Lifeline Accountability Database the above-referenced information about my Lifeline/Tribal Link Up account and/or service for inclusion into the Database, and hereby consent to transmission of the information for purposes allowed by law relating to administration of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up program.

I further understand that a failure to provide this consent to release my Lifeline/Tribal Link Up account and/or service information to the federal administrator for inclusion in the National Lifeline Accountability Database will result in a denial of or de-enrollment from Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service.

Signature

Date

Verification Checklist - Proof of Lifeline or Tribal Link Up Eligibility

Applicant Name: _____

Program Participant Name (if different from Applicant): _____

Application for Benefit submitted based on: Program Participation Eligibility Income Eligibility

Date on which documentation supporting Application reviewed: ____/____/____

Name or ID of employee who reviewed documentation: _____

A. If eligibility reviewed based on state or federal social service or income database:

Name of database: _____ Date database queried: ____/____/____

Attach copy of confirmation received or screen shot of web page showing confirmation, or

Employee or agent confirms that database indicated eligibility (initials): _____

B. If eligibility reviewed based on contact with state agency:

Agency consulted: _____ Name of contacted individual: _____

Date eligibility confirmation received: ____/____/____ (Attach copy of notice provided by state agency confirming eligibility.)

C. If eligibility determined by employee/agent review of eligibility documentation (based on income or program participation)

(1) Describe or indicate type of documentation reviewed (check all reviewed):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agency award letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefit check stub from Soc. Sec. Adm. (if eligibility based on SSI) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility bill (if eligibility based on LIHEAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Current income statement from employer or paycheck stub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficiary card | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal or tribal notice/letter of participation in General Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement or pension statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of participation or enrollment from agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Administration statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment or Workers Compensation statement of benefits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefit check stub from BIA (if eligibility based on BIA General Assistance) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce decree, child support award, or other official document with income information | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Describe documentation if not specifically identified above: _____ | |

(If documentation relied on for income eligibility does not cover a full year, subscriber must present documentation covering at least three consecutive months within previous twelve months)

(2) Date or expiration date of documentation (indicate which): ____/____/____

- Document Date Expiration Date No date available on applicant's documentation

(3) Method documentation was provided or received:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In person..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, returned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By FAX..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, destroyed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By mail..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, destroyed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronically..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, destroyed/deleted |

Customer-Provided Equipment

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

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

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

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

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

Taxes

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

Allowance For Failure Of Service

The Telephone Companies do not guarantee uninterrupted working of its lines or equipment. In case service is interrupted otherwise than by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber, an adjustment will, upon application by a subscriber, be made in the amount of charges for such service, equipment, and facilities furnished as are rendered useless or inoperative. Any adjustment shall apply only to the period the interruption continues beyond 24 hours after notice of the interruption is received by the Telephone Companies. No other liability shall in any case attach to the Telephone Companies.

Billing And Payment For Service

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

National Do Not Call Registry

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

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

Annoying, Obscene, And Threatening Calls

If you get an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 21 for instructions on using Customer Originated Trace. Threatening calls should be reported immediately to the police. Obscene or harassing calls are prohibited by federal and state laws. A person who makes or permits such calls to be made over a telephone under his/her control may be fined or imprisoned, or both.

Telephone Assistance Programs

Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone Subscribers

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

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$9.25 each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The discount applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

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

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

For more information, call Midstate Customer Service at: 605-778-6221, 605-234-8000, or 1-888-214-1431
Email: midstate@midstates.net

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

Trivia~Trivia~Trivia

On the TV show M*A*S*H, what city and state was Klinger from?

****Deadline to enter is the 15th of the Month.** All correct entries will be entered into a drawing for \$10.00. Submit your answers by: 1) Writing your answer on a piece of paper with your name, address and telephone number, and mailing to our Midstate office at PO Box 48, Kimball SD 57355 or 2) Go online to our website at www.midstatesd.net and click on the Trivia link in the bottom left corner and submit your answer online following the online instructions. *Trivia submissions will not be taken by telephone.*

And the Winner is...

Mary Brainard!! She knew that the actress that played the character "Sophia" on TV's "The Golden Girls" was Estelle Getty!!

The Midstate Communications offices in Kimball and Chamberlain will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2015 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.



Important Dates to Remember...

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

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

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

Creasey, Ringling, Sharping and McCord to be Re-Appointed to Board of Directors...

Four districts were open for elections this year with only one district exchanges fielding more than one candidate forcing an election to be held. In the District Exchanges of Geddes/Platte Rural, Platte and Pukwana/Academy only one candidate filed the necessary paperwork for the board positions. Incumbents Bob Creasey, Sandy Ringling and Lonnie Sharping will be re-appointed to the Midstate Communications Board of Directors to serve their respective districts. In the White Lake District, two candidates were on the ballot, with incumbent Lyle McCord and Lori Peters squaring off. When all the votes were tabulated McCord received the most votes in the election. All four directors will begin serving a three-year term at the Annual Meeting of Members of Midstate Communications on October 1, 2015.

Governor Daugaard Visits Midstate Communications Office...

Governor Dennis Daugaard paid a visit to the Midstate Communications office on July 15th as part of Capitol for a Day in Kimball. Employees of Midstate Communications had the opportunity to visit with Governor Daugaard and talk with him about the Midstate Communications operations.



Auto Bill Pay Winner

During the months of June and July Midstate Communications encouraged all of our customers to sign up for our easy to use and convenient Auto Bill Pay program. All customers who signed up for the service and convenience were automatically entered into a drawing for a \$100 prize. The winner of the Auto Bill Pay sign up promotion is Chad and Emily Swanson.

If you didn't sign up during the months of June or July it's not too late to sign up. Save time and money when you sign up for Auto Bill pay with Midstate Communications. Don't waste time, with Midstate's Automatic Bill Pay you can quickly and easily pay your bill online or schedule your payments so they will be paid automatically each month without having to worry. No more late fees, no more worries

By signing up for Auto Bill Pay and selecting the option of having your monthly statements emailed directly to you, you will also save \$1.50 a month. Save time and money with Auto Bill Pay from Midstate Communications.

Have You Seen These Signs?

Some new signs have been popping up at local residents and businesses. What do they mean? Has Midstate changed businesses? Midstate has always been the technology leader in the area. The improvements in our facilities with the fiber to the home brings enhanced products such as our Clear 2 There surveillance product. Being able to monitor your home or business when you are away gives you the peace of mind that your investment is secured. If you are interested in a free consultation or in-home visit, give Lori a call at 605-778-6221.



Notice of Annual Meeting...

This year marks the 63rd Anniversary of Midstate Communications as your customer owned Telecommunications Company. We would like to send a special invite out to all of our members to join us at the Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at the Kimball High School gymnasium. As always we will have great food, fun and prizes for all that attend. We hope that you will join us and help celebrate our successes along with being an informed member owner. The meeting is open to all ages and we encourage you to bring your whole family and share in the fun.

Thursday, October 1, 2015 – Kimball High School Gymnasium

6:00 p.m. Free Meal Begins

7:00 p.m. Business Meeting Begins

Notice of Forfeiture of Property Rights...

Notice is hereby given that the records of Midstate Communications, Inc., formerly known as Midstate Telephone Company, indicate that the following named persons, firms or entities are entitled to receive the amount shown from Midstate Communications, Inc.:

Name	Address	Address	Amount
Indian Health Service	PO Box 200	Ft. Thompson, SD	\$128.08
Charles L. Lane	PO Box 16	Pukwana, SD	\$131.67
Oliver & Lorraine Hanten	24815 372nd Ave	White Lake, SD	\$139.25
Teresa Ehrisman	General Delivery	Delmont, SD	\$140.11
Lester Wells, Jr.	PO Box 294	Ft. Thompson, SD	\$140.53
Dean Jones	503 N. Warner Brothers Pl.	Sioux Falls, SD	\$144.07
Rodney & Marlene Olivier	26115 393rd Ave	Stickney, SD	\$149.54
Lisa Olson	1003 8th St. NW	Watertown, SD	\$166.64
Donna J. Martin	PO Box 191	Gettysburg, SD	\$187.25
Lori Voice	1919 Twin Elms Dr. Apt 1	Rapid City, SD	\$189.48
Mollie Barrs	5830 NW Expressway	Warr Acres, OK	\$219.35
Phonetal Technologies Inc.	1001 Lakeside Ave E. FL 7	Cleveland, OH	\$225.00
Patrick & Robin Stribling	PO Box 2182	Shelton, WA	\$237.17
Donna Voice	PO Box 382	Ft. Thompson, SD	\$260.90
Kathy Swatek	PO Box 195	Delmont, SD	\$293.43
Mike Johnson	PO Box 184	White Lake, SD	\$385.05
Dwight & Carey Brenner	28053 397th Ave.	Armour, SD	\$761.33
Jerry Mathis	PO Box 24	Kimball, SD	\$1,318.52
Indian Health Center (PHS)	PO Box 200	Ft. Thompson	\$1,973.14

This amount will be forfeited to Midstate Communications, Inc., six months after the date of the first publications of this notice unless the money is claimed and proper evidence of ownership is submitted to Midstate within the six month period.

For further information contact Mark Benton, General Manager at Midstate Communications, Inc., PO Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355-0048 or call (605) 778-6221.

Dated this 25th Day of June 2015.
Midstate Communications, Inc.

Telephone assistance to Low Income and Tribal Lands Consumers...

Low-income consumers may qualify for assistance that will reduce the cost of basic monthly telephone service. Lifeline/Linkup Assistance is available to qualifying consumers in every U.S. state (territory and commonwealth). Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service to qualifying consumers. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts.

To be eligible for Lifeline assistance the telephone subscriber must participate in one of the following programs:

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

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

Residents of American Indian reservations or tribal lands may qualify for up to an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and a credit of up to \$100 on their initial installation charges. An individual living on tribal lands may qualify for Lifeline and Linkup discounts if he or she participates in one of the programs listed above or also by receiving assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or Head Start (only for those households meeting its income qualifying standard).

If you live in a Midstate Communications service area and feel you may qualify for either of these programs please contact Midstate Communications, PO Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 or by phone at 605-778-6221.

Health Concern Turns into Peace of Mind for One Midstate Family

Midstate employees assist customers with everyday challenges in regards to their telecommunications needs. Recently we received a request from a customer to add surveillance cameras inside their home. The unique situation was quickly realized to be not just a "big brother" situation but rather a matter of managing a serious health situation that was causing concern in the family.

Midstate employee, Lori Lafferty, met with the family in their home to discuss their needs. A member of the family was diabetic. Being diabetic, keeping the blood sugar in check can prevent many other health complications such as kidney disease or a possible heart attack. One of the concerns the family had, was being able to monitor the kitchen area closely. By

doing so they would know if unnecessary food was being consumed and affecting the blood sugar levels.

Lori explained the benefits of using a door sensor on the refrigerator that would inform family members when the refrigerator or kitchen pantry were opened. A simple wireless camera was placed in the kitchen to focus on the refrigerator as well so contents could be monitored. A motion sensor in the kitchen would also send the family members a text message on their cell phone when movement occurred in the kitchen. This way they could easily go in and view the camera in the kitchen.

The result was peace of mind knowing they were able to monitor their loved one with a potential dangerous medical condition.

After a few weeks the customer's reached out to Midstate to add a thermostat to be able to control the heating and cooling in the home as well as a programmable door lock that they can simply lock & unlock their doors all from the convenience of an app on their smartphone rather than using a key.

Some may look at this situation as extreme. When it comes to our loved ones, if we can promote senior self-reliance which can mean continuing to live in one's own home, senior's stay happy. They still have their independence. Adding technology to a home doesn't have to be expensive. If you are interested in options that can extend your stay in your home, give Midstate a call for a free in home consultation.



- [Company](#)
- [My Midstate Support](#)
- [My Bill Pay](#)
- [My Midstate Webmail](#)



Providing variety & quality services, at an affordable price to the residents and businesses we serve.



- [Internet](#)
 - [Technical Information](#)
 - [Website Hosting](#)
 - [WebWonder Website Builder](#)
 - [Website Listings](#)
 - [Service Agreement](#)
 - [Sign-up Online](#)
 - [Live Chat Support](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - [Network Management Policy](#)
 - [Product Bundles](#)
 - [Download Speed Comparison](#)
- [Telephone](#)
 - [Local Services](#)
 - [Long Distance Services](#)
 - [Tribal Lifeline-linkup Assistance](#)
 - [Lifeline-linkup](#)
 - [Product Bundles](#)
- [Cable TV](#)
 - [Monthly Rates and Charges](#)
 - [Channel Guide](#)
 - [TV Guide](#)

- [Zap2it Channel Listings](#)
- [Program Your Remote / DVR](#)
- [Product Bundles](#)
- [Computer Services](#)
 - [Business](#)
 - [Antivirus & Internet Security Solutions](#)
 - [Data Backup and Recovery](#)
 - [Technology Consulting](#)
 - [Troubleshooting and Repair](#)
 - [Remote Managed Services](#)
 - [Network Design and Management](#)
 - [Computer Bundles](#)
- [Networking](#)
 - [Computer and Network Security](#)
 - [E-mail Server and Mobile Device Support](#)
 - [Antivirus and Internet Security Solutions](#)
 - [Computer Bundles](#)

Lifeline-linkup

Back To: [Telephone](#)

No one should be without telephone service because they can't afford it. Access to a telephone provides access to vital emergency services and community resources. If you need help paying for your telephone services, there is help. You may qualify for Lifeline or Link Up programs through Midstate Communications if you receive benefits such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, or other similar programs. You can save money and stay connected with Midstate Communications and Lifeline and Link Up.

For further assistance:

[Contact Us](#)

What type of discount is available?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support.

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, pueblo, or colony; on a former reservation in Oklahoma; within an Indian allotment; within an Alaska Native region established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; or Hawaiian Homelands held in trust

pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920.

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

Eligibility

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

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

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. Residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, or participate in one of these programs:

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

[Income Requirements](#)

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Annual Re-Certification

At least once each year, beginning in 2012, consumers that receive free or discounted Lifeline service must re-certify:

1. That they remain eligible for Lifeline service, and;
2. That no one else in their household receives Lifeline service.

If you have a Lifeline account, you will receive a re-certification notification requiring you to re-certify your eligibility. You could receive a letter in the mail, a telephone call, or a text message asking you to respond by re-certifying that you remain eligible for Lifeline.

If you fail to respond by the deadline indicated, your Lifeline discount will be eliminated.

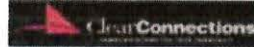
This means your monthly phone bill will increase, or the free minutes you normally receive each month will not be provided. In order to avoid a change in service, consumers are strongly encouraged to respond promptly to re-

certification notifications.

In addition, you must inform your telephone company if you no longer qualify for Lifeline service. If you become ineligible for Lifeline, you must contact your telephone company directly to de-enroll from Lifeline service.

For further assistance:

[Contact Us](#)



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Tribal Lifeline-linkup Assistance

Back To: [Telephone](#)

Lifeline-linkup provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

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

For further assistance:

[Contact Us](#)

Linkup

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

The reduction is up to 100% of the cost associated up to \$100.

Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

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

For further assistance:

[Contact Us](#)

Eligibility

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

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

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

1. Be in good standing as a member of the Midstate Communications Cooperative.

2. Be current in all payments to Midstate Communications. Customers will be approved on an individual basis upon receipt of properly filed forms.

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

[Click Here to Apply](#)



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Staying in Touch has never been
this **EASY!**





Tribal **Lifeline & Link-Up**

Can help you stay in touch with those you love the most for FREE.

Tribal Lifeline Assistance, a federal program available from Midstate Communications, is for residents of Tribal Lands and provides eligible subscribers with basic monthly telephone service at NO CHARGE (CIF - Hearing Impaired Service, Long Distance, 911 fees and other applicable charges still apply). Lifeline subscribers may also block long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

Tribal Link-Up provides eligible subscribers on Tribal Lands with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This discount is 100% of the applicable charges up to \$100.

Your Lifeline phone service provides you reliable access to Emergency 911.

Lifeline is a government program. You must be eligible to receive Lifeline. You are allowed only one Lifeline discount per household. You cannot transfer your Lifeline discount to someone else, even if he or she is eligible.



For more info or to apply for the Lifeline program call Midstate Communications at 778-6221 or 234-8000. www.midstatesd.net

What Is Lifeline? | Companies in My State

COMPANIES IN MY STATE

South Dakota

[↔ Back to map](#)

Clicking on the header label of each column will sort the table by that column.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Service Type</u>
Northern Valley Communications	888-919-8145	Wireline
James Valley Wireless	800-556-6525	Wireless
AT&T Mobility	800-377-9450	Wireless
City of Brookings Telephone Fund		Wireless
Northern Valley Communications	888-919-8945	Wireless
Budget Mobile	888-777-4007	Wireless
JTC Telecom	800-417-8667	Home Phone
Swiftel Communications	605-692-6211	Home Phone
Alliance Communications	800-701-4978	Home Phone
CenturyLink (formerly Qwest)	800-244-1111	Home Phone
C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority	605-964-2600	Home Phone
Golden West Telecommunications	866-279-2161	Home Phone
James Valley Telecommunications	800-556-6525	Home Phone
Kennebec Telephone Company	605-869-2220	Home Phone
Jefferson Telephone Company	712-271-4000	Home Phone
Midstate Communications	605-778-6221	Home Phone
PrairieWave Community Telephone	877-633-4567	Home Phone
PrairieWave Black Hills	605-721-2000	Home Phone
Santel Communications	888-978-7777	Home Phone
RC Communications, Inc.	800-256-6854	Home Phone
Roberts County Telephone Cooperative Association	800-256-6854	Home Phone
TrioTel Communications, Inc.	800-242-1925	Home Phone
Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association	605-437-2615	Home Phone
Venture Communications	800-824-7282	Home Phone
West River Telecom	800-748-7220	Home Phone
Beresford Municipal Telephone	605-763-2500	Home Phone
City of Fairth Municipal Telephone Company	605-967-2261	Home Phone
Mt. Rushmore Telephone Company	605-666-4411	Home Phone

Golden West Telecommunications	855-888-7777	Home Phone
Western Telephone Company	800-824-7282	Home Phone
Midcontinent Communications	605-274-9810	Home Phone
Midstate Telecom, Inc	888-214-1431	Home Phone
SS Telecom	605-676-6000	Home Phone

[⇐ Back to map](#)

Email us with [questions from consumers](#).
Email us with [questions from carriers](#).

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota

County of Brule

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

With Lifeline Service Through Midstate Communications

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

April 15, 2015; _____, 20____; _____, 20____; _____, 20____;

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

\$174.00

Signed: Debi Ruiz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of April, 2015

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



My commission expires June 5, 2016.

Affordable Phone Service With Lifeline Service Through Midstate Communications

Midstate Communications provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

- Single Party Residence Service - \$21.95/Month
Single Party Business Service - \$30/Month (Chamberlain/Oaocoma)
Single Party Business Service - \$27.95/Month

- Local residence and business service includes:
- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Temporary Aid To Needy Families (TANF)
National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

A subscriber who lives on tribal lands and is an eligible resident of tribal lands is eligible for tribal Lifeline service if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following tribal-specific federal assistance programs - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance For Needy Families; head start (if income eligibility criteria are met) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Midstate Communication's voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Midstate's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Midstate's office at 605-778-6221.

Midstate COMMUNICATIONS logo and contact information: P.O. Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355, www.midstatesd.net

4/9/2015

002307 1 AV 0.381 T8



GI : 2307
JERRY WINGERT & JOANNE HEADLEY
622 MAIN ST
PUKWANA, SD 57370-2301

Dear Customer:

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

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

Sincerely,
MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.



Mark D. Benton
General Manager

MDB/jt

Enclosures

4/6/2016

000607 1 AV 0.391 T3



GI : 607
TUCKER & CRYSTAL ASHLEY
35540 250TH ST
PUKWANA, SD 57370-6513

Dear Customer:

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

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Sincerely,
MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.



Mark D. Benton
General Manager

MDB/jt

Enclosures