

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2017**

Company: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company

Address: 101 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

- X   Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached advertisement(s).)
- X   Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up within 1<sup>st</sup> 30 days of service.\* (See attached letter.)
- X   Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- X   Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. ([www.bmtc.net](http://www.bmtc.net))
- X   Company's information posted on USAC website.
- X   Other (describe): Information placed on City Hall bulletin board  
for public viewing
- 

\*Required

# COMMUNITY

## Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Rates and Lifeline 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 Residential Service	\$25.45
Single Line Business Service	\$28.95
Multi Line Business Service	\$32.07

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 telephone assistance program is available for qualifying low-income subscribers. This program provides a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. 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

Beresford Telephone Company's voice service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must provide 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 & 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 BMTC's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunication services, please call BMTC's office at 763-2500.

Cross Country and  
Chorus

**REMINDER**  
Deadline for  
Beresford Rep  
is Fridays at 5  
Thank You

**Hair • Tanning**

KUT

1020 Vern

Hours: Mon. 10 a.  
Wed. 10 a.m.-  
Fri. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Gift Co

**FOR RE**

**One Bed**  
605/607 W

✓ 2 months free re  
one-year lea

All spruced up a  
Call our n

**Helen Sorens**  
**Skogen Compa**

**Skogen**  
COMPAN

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**Beresford Municipal Telephone  
120 E. Main Street  
Beresford, SD 57004  
763-2500**

***Notice to Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Customers***

**Low Income Assistance Available:**

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide a federal telephone assistance program that was developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens. The **Lifeline** program provides reduced monthly charges to residential telephone subscribers who qualify.

**Who is Eligible?**

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Medicaid</b>                                 | <b>Low Income Home Energy Assistance</b>  |
| <b>Food Stamps</b>                              | <b>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</b> |
| <b>Federal Housing Assistance</b>               | <b>Temporary Aid to Needy Families</b>    |
| <b>National School Lunch Free Lunch Program</b> |   |

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

**2016 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines**

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$16,038	5	\$38,394
2	\$21,627	6	\$43,983
3	\$27,216	7	\$49,586
4	\$32,805	8	\$55,202

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

*Source: Federal Register, Vol. 81 No. 15, January 25, 2016, pp. 4036-4037.*

**What does the Program Provide?**

**Lifeline** provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$9.25 on their basic telephone charges. The credit applies 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.

**How do I apply?**

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. You must also show proof of program participation or income eligibility. More details on this documentation requirement and application forms are available at our office at: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 120 E. Main St., Beresford, SD 57004, and at Beresford City Hall, 101 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., 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. *You are obligated by law to notify Beresford Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline.*

***If you feel you qualify for this program or would like more information,  
please call us at 763-2500 or stop in our office at 120 E. Main Street.***

*Bill Insect 4/2016*

U.S. CODE, TITLE 18  
Section 1343

Fraud by Wire. Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communication in interstate or foreign 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.

HOUSE BILL NO., 639, as passed by the Fifty-Second Session of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota stipulates the following:

1. Any person 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, which are buried beneath the surface of the ground, including areas within the limits of any political subdivision, shall give written notice thereof to the office of the register of deeds in the county where the facilities are located.
2. 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 having control of these facilities.
3. Any person intending to conduct any digging, grading, leveling, excavating, blasting, or similar activities upon the lands described in the notice shall request the person owning or controlling the facilities to accurately locate them upon the land where they are situated, at least two days per location, not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the commencement of the activity.

## Lifeline and Toll Limitation Services

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

### What type of discount is available?

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers receive a \$9.25 credit per month.

Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

**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.

### How do I know whether I am eligible?

Eligibility for Lifeline and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline 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% poverty guidelines.

To apply for Lifeline and TLS discounts, please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone 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 telephony companies are using the telephone for collection of claimed debts in ways that are or may be in violation of applicable laws. Practices alleged include calling at odd hours of the day or night; repeated calls; calls to friends, neighbors, relatives, employers, and children; 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; and calls misrepresenting the terms and conditions of existing or proposed employment. Although many of these calls are placed on a local basis, there is increasing indication that 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 otherwise, if in a manner reasonably to be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass, for calls that "... interfere unreasonably with the use of the service by one or more other persons, or calls for "... unlawful purpose." Upon violation of any of these conditions the telephone company, by written notice, discontinue service "forthwith." These tariff regulations are filed with the Federal Communications 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 penalties provided for in Sections 401 and 411 of the Communications Act. In addition, the telephone service for violation of the tariffs, Section 223 of the Communications Act requires the telephone company to use the telephone in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign communication "repeated telephone calls, during which conversation ensues, solely to harass any person or to knowingly permit "others to use his telephone" for such purpose. Penalties under Section 223 are a fine up to \$500.00 or six months' imprisonment, or both, 47 U.S.C.

The Commission is concerned that some users of telephone service may be unaware of or to refrain from using the service for abusive or harassing calls. It is also concerned that some users may be willfully and repeatedly violating the provision of the tariffs and the applicable laws. Accordingly, the Commission is issuing this Public Notice in order that the public may be informed of the requirements and so that users may be alerted to their legal obligations in the use of the telephone service and the penalties for failure to abide thereby.

**Beresford Municipal Telephone  
120 E. Main Street  
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<b>Food Stamps</b>	<b>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</b>
<b>Federal Housing Assistance</b>	<b>Temporary Aid to Needy Families</b>
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