

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2021**

Company: Jefferson Telephone Company

Address: 104 4th Street

Jefferson SD

57049

Telephone number: 712-271-5535

Company contact: Paul Bergmann

Study Area Code: 391666

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 within 1st 30 days of service.* (See attached letter.)



Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.



Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. www.longlines.com/phone/lifeline



Company's information posted on USAC website.



Other (describe):

*Required



PUBLIC NOTICE

Long Lines is a telecommunications provider who provides basic and enhanced services within its service territory, including services supported by Federal Universal Service funds and eligible for Federal Lifeline assistance.

Basic residential service is available as a Lifeline service. Lifeline is a government benefit program which provides a monthly credit toward a qualified low-income subscriber's telephone or internet bill. Only eligible low-income consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Consumers who meet eligibility criteria must also complete documentation necessary for enrollment. Lifeline assistance is non-transferable, and eligible subscribers may receive assistance from only one wireline or wireless telecommunications provider per household. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain Lifeline benefits can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. If you have any questions regarding the company's services or you want to apply for Lifeline telephone assistance, application forms can be obtained from Long Lines at 504 4th St., Sergeant Bluff, IA. 1.866.901.5664 or LongLines.com

Dear Customer:

Long Lines Broadband participates in the Lifeline Telephone/Broadband assistance program. Lifeline assistance is available if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household receives benefits from one of the following qualifying federal assistance programs:

- Medicate (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplement Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- National School Lunch Free Lunch Program
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs

OR

- Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty. Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance.

If you are eligible for Lifeline assistance under any of the programs listed above, please complete the enclosed application.

The Lifeline program offers a \$7.25 per month discount on home landline service or \$9.25 per month discount on internet service.

If you qualify for Lifeline assistance based on household income please complete the enclosed **application** and **Income certification Form**, attach the required documentation* and return it to USAC, Lifeline Support Center, PO Box 7081, London, KY 40742.

*Documentation of Income eligibility includes the previous year's state or federal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, or other such official documents. If your documentation does not cover an entire year, please provide three consecutive months' worth of the same type of document. Please note that 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 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.

If you require application you may download one at www.longlines.com/phone/lifeline or stop by our office at 504 4th Street, Sergeant Bluff, IA or you may contact our business at 866-901-5664 and we will be happy sent one out to you.

Please note that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines require telephone companies, like ours, to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customers' for continued eligibility in the program. You may be required to complete the application and/or provide additional information on a yearly basis for random sampling process. This benefit can be received on landline telephone and data services. Each customer can only receive one Lifeline subsidy.

Lifeline Program

Every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. This principle of "Universal Service" has been the goal of the telecommunications industry for decades. In 1934, the federal government codified the goal and reaffirmed it in 1996 by establishing policies for the "preservation and advancement of Universal Service."

To achieve the Universal Service goal, carriers have access to a fund that is generated by contributions from the telecommunications providers in the United States. Telecommunications companies draw from the fund to provide four programs that support telecommunications services nationwide. Lifeline Assistance Program (Lifeline) is part of the fund's Low-Income Program and are described in detail below. Toll limitation service is another program available to low income subscribers to help them control what they spend on telephone service.

Lifeline and Toll Limitation Service support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service.

What type of discount is available?

Lifeline assistance

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$7.25 per month in discounts. Additional state support may be available.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS)

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:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans pension or Survivors Benefit Programs

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:

1. Download and complete the certification form and submit it to the address on the form. (please include any supporting documents)
2. Re-certification forms are mailed to all subscribers every year. When you receive a re-certification form, complete and return it to the address on the form within 60 days. Re-certification is mandatory and Long Lines will suspend your eligibility for low-income assistance if you do not return the re-certification form.

Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Family Size	48 Contiguous States & Washington, D.C.
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Family Size	48 Contiguous States & Washington, D.C.
1	\$16,862
2	\$22,829
3	\$28,796
4	\$34,763
5	\$40,730
6	\$46,697
7	\$52,664
8	\$58,631
For each additional person add:	\$5,967

Application Checklist

You **MUST** provide the following information:

1. A signed and completed Lifeline assistance certification form.
2. A copy of one of the following if applying based on the size and income level of a customer's household:
 - Last year's federal or state income tax return
 - Current annual income statement from employer
 - Paycheck stubs for most recent three consecutive months
 - Social Security statement of benefits
 - Veteran's Administration statement of benefits
 - Retirement or pension statement of benefits
 - Unemployment or worker's compensation statement of benefits
 - Letter of participation in general assistance
 - Divorce decree or child support documentation
3. Supporting documentation of program-based eligibility if applying based on participation in any programs listed above.

Acceptable documentation of program eligibility includes the current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying assistance program, a notice, letter or documents of participation in a qualifying assistance program, or another official document demonstrating that you, or one or more of your dependents, or your household receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program. **Federal law requires your provider to review and securely retain this documentation. Federal law also prevents your provider from sharing these documents with unauthorized persons.**

How do I apply to receive Lifeline and TLS support discounts?

Contact Long Lines at 712.271.4000. Consumers must apply for Lifeline and TLS discounts through their local phone company. Visit the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) website www.lifelinesupport.org or call USAC toll free at 1.888.641.8722 with questions about Lifeline and TLS discounts.

[Download Recertification Form](#)

[Download Household Worksheet](#)

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