

Docket Number: TC23-017
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: Venture Vision
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: 6/23/2023
Responses Due: 7/7/2023

1-1. Of Venture Visions current customers, what percentage is fiber to the home?

Response: Venture Vision customers are 100% fiber to the home.

1-2. Provide the Lifeline information as required by ARSD 20:10:32:55.

Response: Venture Vision is dba Venture Communications, so Venture Vision customers receive the same advertising/paperwork that Venture Communications customers receive. See attached Lifeline Report for Venture Vision.

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2023**

Company:

Address:

Telephone number:

Company contact:

Study Area Code:

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.

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe):

*Required



ATTENTION Students:
Don't miss this opportunity!

Venture Communications Scholarships Increase:

Venture Communications is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for the year 2023 have been mailed to local schools throughout our serving area. Venture Communications awards fourteen Citizenship and Community Service Scholarships in the amount of \$750 each.

To be considered for the Venture Communications Citizenship and Community Service Scholarship, a student must meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Graduating High School Senior in 2023
- ✓ The student's parent or legal guardian is an active subscriber of a Venture Communications service.
- ✓ Student must have a cumulative B average or above.

Guidelines for this year's scholarship can be obtained from the high school guidance counselor, or by visiting www.venturecomm.net.

**venture
communications**

Lifeline & Link-Up Programs:

Venture Communications is proud to have helped many customers this past year through the FCC's Lifeline Link-Up Program, providing discounted installation and monthly telephone service to qualifying consumers.

Lifeline Program:

You may be eligible for the Lifeline Program and it's up to \$9.25 monthly savings if you are a participant in at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit.

In addition, you may be eligible for the monthly savings if your household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. Qualifying income levels for the year 2022 range from \$18,347 for a single person household to \$62,951 for a family of eight.

Enhanced Lifeline Program:

The Enhanced Lifeline Program provides telephone service to anyone who lives on tribal lands. It expands the eligibility requirements listed under the Lifeline Program to also include participation in: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance programs, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Tribal Head Start, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Link-Up Program:

Another Federal Program, Link-Up, provides for financial assistance with no connection charges for new customers living on tribal land.

If you meet the eligibility requirement, you can apply 1 of 3 ways:

1. For a quicker response – enter your application online at www.checklifeline.org.
2. Mail your paper application to the Lifeline Support Center.
3. Fill out and submit your application online at the Venture Communication office. Applications are available online at www.lifelinesupport.com or at your local Venture Communications office.
4. If you have any questions about Lifeline or Link-Up, call us at 605-852-2224.

Lifeline

Lifeline and Toll Blocking support is available from Venture Communications. 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 broadband and/or local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll Blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

Customers are eligible if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension or Survivors Pension

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Venture Communications voice and broadband services are Lifeline-supported services. 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.

To apply for this low-income assistance, please go to the National Lifeline website at www.nv.fcc.gov, or contact Venture Communications at 800-824-7282 for further information.

Lifeline Advertising

Potter County News	9/1/2022
Pride of the Prairie - Bowdle	9/28/2022
Highmore Herald	9/1/2022
Roscoe-Hosmer Independent	8/31/2022
Rosholt Review	8/31/2022
Faulk County Record	8/31/2022
The Hoven Review	8/31/2022
Langford Bugle & Britton Journal	8/31/2022
The Sisseton Courier	8/23/2022
Onida Watchman	9/1/2022
True Dakotan	8/31/2022
Selby Record	9/1/2022

Need help paying your phone bill?

Many low-income families qualify for assistance with phone charges, but don't realize that this help is available. 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.

Lifeline is a federally funded program created to provide every customer the opportunity to have affordable internet and/or telephone service. Lifeline provides qualified customers with a monthly discount if you are enrolled in one of the following:

- Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension

Individuals who live on a federally recognized reservation or trust land may qualify for a discount if they receive assistance from one of the following:

- Any of the programs listed above
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Program
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Tribal Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

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 to the right).

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$18,347
2	\$24,719
3	\$31,091
4	\$37,463
5	\$43,835
6	\$50,207
7	\$56,579
8	\$62,951

For each additional person, add \$6,372.

venture
communications
852-2224 cooperative

For a quick response - enter your application online at nv.fcc.gov.