



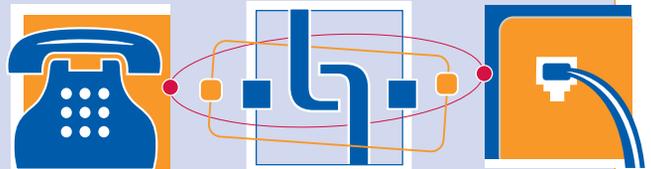
Telephone Assistance Programs



The Lifeline and Link-Up assistance programs make affordable telephone service available to qualifying South Dakotans.

Even if you don't qualify for Lifeline or Link-Up, chances are you know someone who does. Think about your family, neighbors and friends. Receiving a discount on local phone service might make a big difference in their life, especially if they are managing expenses on a limited income. Having affordable telephone service will give them – and you – peace of mind by knowing they can stay connected with a doctor's office, their child's school or emergency assistance when needed. Share this information about Lifeline and Link-Up.

Lifeline and Link-Up
connect for less



South Dakota
Public Utilities Commission

1,000 copies of this brochure were printed by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission at a cost of \$0.65 each.

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
500 E. CAPITOL AVE. • PIERRE, SD 57501
www.puc.sd.gov • 1-800-332-1782



Staying connected to family, friends and businesses is an important part of life.

Having access to affordable telephone service for your home makes staying connected easier.

You may qualify for two special programs – Lifeline and Link-Up – that help reduce the cost of telephone service so you can connect for less.

● **Lifeline** helps you save a significant amount of money on your monthly phone bill. The discount applies to basic local telephone service on one line per household.

● **Link-Up** pays one-half, up to a maximum of \$30, of the installation or activation fee for new telephone service at your primary residence. Link-Up also allows you to pay the remaining amount owed on installation or activation on a deferred schedule, interest-free.

You can also sign up for toll blocking or toll limitation service that either blocks or limits long-distance calls from your phone.

If you meet the requirements listed to the right, contact your local telephone company to apply for Lifeline and Link-Up. You can also contact the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for an application. Call 1-800-332-1782 or go to www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline on the Internet.



Lifeline and Link-Up have eligibility requirements. You may qualify if you participate in *any* of the following programs:

- Medicaid (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Free Lunch Program

You may also qualify if your household income is no more than 135 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines (see guidelines at www.puc.sd.gov/lifeline). You must provide proof of your income when applying under this option.

Important Information

- If you qualify based on participation in a federal aid program, the phone must be in the name of the person who receives those benefits.
- Lifeline is available on only one line per household.
- Lifeline and Link-Up discounts cannot be applied to past due telephone bills.
- Once you are on Lifeline, you will be periodically asked to verify that you remain eligible. If you do not respond, the phone company is required to stop the discounts.
- Link-Up will not cover the cost of a phone or wiring your home.
- You must notify the telephone company when you no longer qualify for Lifeline.

