



RECEIVED

MAY 17 2005

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 13, 2005

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Subject: Response to TC05-058, FCC Requirements for Lifeline and Link-up programs

Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. is responding to the SD Public Utilities Commission request with the following information.

- 1) Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. Lifeline and Enhanced Lifeline and link-up forms are enclosed. Copies of the Lifeline / Enhanced Lifeline brochures, copy of the notice posted in the office lobby, and annual published notice are also enclosed. Lifeline information can also be viewed on Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. website, www.kennebectelephone.com.
- 2) Each new subscriber receives a Lifeline or Enhanced Lifeline and link-up form and brochure at the time service is first provided. The Lifeline and Enhanced Lifeline brochures are placed in the Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. office information rack and are handed out at all Farm & Home Shows and Business Appreciation Events attended by Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. Annually Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. publishes information on lifeline, see attached Publisher's Affidavit of Publication form. Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. has the Lifeline information posted on their website.
- 3) Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. current Lifeline / Enhanced Lifeline policy explains how the certification procedure is implemented. The policy described the steps taken for a first time subscriber to the Lifeline program and the steps taken to perform the required verification and recertification of subscribers in the program. See attached policy.
- 4) The letter used for verification and recertification of Lifeline / Enhanced Lifeline subscribers is attached. The first verification letter was sent to 1/3rd of the Lifeline / Enhanced Lifeline subscriber on April 29, 2005. This follows the random sample size specified in our policy.

If there are additional questions or information needed, please contact me at 605-869-2220.

Rod Bowar
President / Manager

LIFELINE/LINK UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

(please print)

Name: Last First M.I.

Address: Street Apt. No.

City: City State Zip Code

Social Security Number:

Telephone Number (if you have existing service):

Telephone Number where you can be reached or receive messages:

- 1. I am applying for: Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount) Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)

Note: Telephone service MUST be in applicant's name.

2. I am currently receiving assistance benefits from at least one of the following programs (check all that apply):

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance).
Food Stamps program.
Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8).
Low Income Home Energy Assistance.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program.

3. Or,

My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (documentation required - see attached self-certification)

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

Signature

Date

Send the completed application to your local phone company

Lifeline information was provided to me: (please sign) Date:

**SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK UP APPLICANTS
QUALIFYING UNDER INCOME-BASED CRITERION**

I, _____, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Link Up assistance based on my household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. I further certify under penalty of perjury that there are _____ members in my household and that the supporting income documentation presented to my telecommunications provider accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(circle documentation presented to telecommunication provider)

- Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub (three consecutive months)
- Social Security statement of benefits
- Veteran's Administration statement of benefits
- Retirement/pension statement of benefits
- Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
- Federal or tribal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance
- Divorce Decree
- Child support

LIFELINE AND/OR LINK UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS LIVING ON TRIBAL LANDS
(please print)

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Apt. No.

City: _____
City State Zip Code

Social Security Number: _____

Telephone Number (if you have existing service): _____

Telephone Number where you can be reached or receive messages: _____

1. I am applying for: _____ Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)
_____ Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)

Note: Telephone service MUST be in applicant's name.

2. I am an individual living on "tribal land."

"An eligible resident of Tribal lands" for purposes of the Lifeline and Link Up Assistance Programs is a qualifying low-income consumer living on or near a reservation. A "reservation" is defined as any federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony, and Indian Allotments. "Near reservation" is defined as those areas or communities adjacent or contiguous to reservations which have been designated by the Federal Commission of Indian Affairs (within the Department of the Interior) as locales that are appropriate for the extension of financial assistance and/or social services.

3. I am currently receiving assistance benefits from at least one of the following programs (check all that apply):

- _____ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance).
_____ Food Stamps program.
_____ Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
_____ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8).
_____ Low Income Home Energy Assistance.
_____ Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program.
_____ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. (State or Tribally Administered)
_____ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program.
_____ Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards).

4. Or,
_____ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
(documentation required - see attached self-certification)

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

Signature Date

Send the completed application to your local phone company

Lifeline information was provided to me: _____ Date: _____
(please sign)

**SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK UP APPLICANTS
QUALIFYING UNDER INCOME-BASED CRITERION**

I, _____, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Link Up assistance based on my household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. I further certify under penalty of perjury that there are _____ members in my household and that the supporting income documentation presented to my telecommunications provider accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(circle documentation presented to telecommunication provider)

- Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub (three consecutive months)
- Social Security statement of benefits
- Veteran's Administration statement of benefits
- Retirement/pension statement of benefits
- Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
- Federal or tribal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance
- Divorce Decree
- Child support

LIFELINE Program

Lifeline support may reduce an eligible subscriber's basic local residential rate to \$1 per month.

Lifeline subscribers may also receive long distance blocking on their telephone free of charge.

LINK-UP Program

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with a reduction up to \$100 (50% of the first \$60 and 100% of charges between \$60 and \$130) for connection and line extension charges for basic home telephone service.

Deferred payments of connection charges, without interest, may be arranged for Link-Up subscribers.

Qualifications

People currently participating in at least one of the programs listed below would qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up programs. **You also qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines** (For example, a South Dakota family of four with an annual income at or below \$24,840 would now be eligible).

Qualifying Programs:

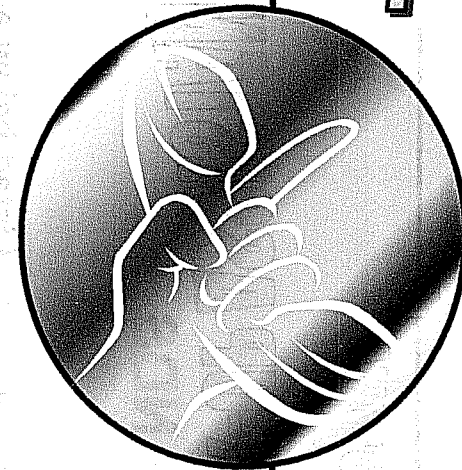
- ▶ Medicaid (e.g., Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- ▶ Food Stamps
- ▶ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ▶ Federal Public Housing Assistance
- ▶ Low Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP)
- ▶ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- ▶ National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program (NSL)
- ▶ BIA General Assistance
- ▶ Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- ▶ Head Start

"Tribal Land" for purposes of the 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.

To Apply:

Contact your local telephone company for an application.

Need Help?



LIFELINE/ LINK-UP on TRIBAL LANDS

Assistance for Basic
Home Telephone Service

SD Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
1-800-332-1782

HOW to APPLY for LIFELINE and/or LINK-UP ASSISTANCE on TRIBAL LANDS

Contact your local telephone company for an application. Listed below are some of the questions or information the telephone company may request:

1. Which program are you applying for? Lifeline? Link-up? Both?
2. Are you currently receiving assistance benefits from any of the following programs?

- ✓ Medicaid (e.g., Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- ✓ Food Stamps
- ✓ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ✓ Federal Public Housing Assistance
- ✓ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP)
- ✓ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- ✓ National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program (NSL)
- ✓ BIA General Assistance
- ✓ Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- ✓ Head Start
- ✓ Income Criteria— income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty guidelines*

*(Income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. You will be asked to list the number of individuals in your household. In order to qualify under this criterion, you must provide documentation of income eligibility. Documentation may consist of a copy of a prior year's state, federal or tribal tax return, three consecutive months of income statements or paycheck stubs from your employer, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, federal or tribal notice letter of participation in Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, a divorce decree or child support document.)

Call your local telephone company for an application!

LIFELINE Program

Lifeline provides basic telephone service to eligible subscribers at a reduced monthly rate.

Lifeline subscribers may also receive long distance blocking on their telephone free of charge.

LINK-UP Program

Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with a 50% reduction (up to \$30) for connection and line extension charges for basic home telephone service.

Deferred payments of connection charges, without interest, may be arranged for Link-Up subscribers.

Qualifications

People currently participating in at least one of the programs listed below would qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up programs. *You also qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines* (For example A South Dakota family of four with an annual income at or below \$24,840 would now be eligible).

Qualifying Programs:

- ◆ Medicaid (eg., Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- ◆ Food Stamps
- ◆ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ◆ Federal Public Housing Assistance
- ◆ Low Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP)
- ◆ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- ◆ National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program (NSL)

To Apply:

Contact your local telephone company for an application.

Need Help?



LIFELINE/ LINK-UP Programs

Assistance for Basic Home Telephone Service

SD Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

1-800-332-1782

HOW to APPLY for LIFELINE and/or LINK-UP ASSISTANCE

Contact your local telephone company for an application. Listed below are some of the questions or information the telephone company may request:

- 1. Which program are you applying for? Lifeline? Link-up? Both?**
- 2. Are you currently receiving assistance benefits from any of the following programs?**

- Medicaid (e.g., Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program (NSL)
- Income Criteria— income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty guidelines*

*(Please check with your local telephone company to see if this criterion is in effect. Income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. You will be asked to list the number of individuals in your household. In order to qualify under this criterion, you must provide documentation of income eligibility. Documentation may consist of a copy of a prior year's state, federal or tribal tax return, three consecutive months of income statements or paycheck stubs from your employer, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, federal or tribal notice letter of participation in Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, a divorce decree or child support document.)

Call your local telephone company for an application!

Publisher's Affidavit of Publication

SOUTH DAKOTA)
) SS
 LYMAN)

son, of said county and state being duly sworn on her oath says: The Herald is a weekly newspaper of general circulation and published in _____ County, and State of South Dakota; and has been such newspaper during _____ (after mentioned); That said newspaper is a legal weekly, that it has a circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said _____ an more than fifty-two successive weeks next prior to publication of the _____ ter mentioned and maintained at the place of publication; That I, the _____ editor of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement

Notice

of which is hereto attached and published in the said newspaper for _____ consecutive week(s).

tion of said notice in said newspaper aforesaid was on _____ day of Nov. A.D., 2004

ceeding publications were severally
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004
 _____ day of _____ A.D., 2004

publication on Wednesday, the _____ day of _____, 2004, _____ m of fees charged for publishing the same, to-wit; the sum of _____ insures solely to the editor of The Lyman County Herald. _____ ent or understanding for any division thereof had been made with any _____ id that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person

Renelle Utthe

 Notary Public

sworn to before me this 26 day of NOV, 2004

 RENELLE UTTHE
 NOTARY PUBLIC - SOUTH DAKOTA
 My Commission Expires _____, 200____
 September 20, 2004

Notice

Kennebec Telephone Company Inc. is a telecommunications company that provides basic and enhanced services with its service area.

Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service \$16.00/month

Single Party Business Service \$25.00/month

Local residence and business services includes:

Voice grade access to the public telephone network

Flat-rated local exchange service free of per minute charges

Access to directory assistance service

Access to other operator services

Access to 911 emergency services

Access to interexchange (long distance) service

Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch tone) service

Lifeline and Link Up telephone assistance programs are also available to

qualifying low-income subscribers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. Enhanced Lifeline/Link Up support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. Enhanced Lifeline/Link Up provides for expanded eligibility requirements and additional telephone service discounts. Subscribers eligible for Lifeline/Link Up and Enhanced Lifeline/Link Up may also receive toll-blocking service at no charge.

The services described above are offered to all consumers in Kennebec Telephone Company's service area. If you have any questions regarding our services, please call our office at 869-2220. You are also welcome to visit our business office at 220 S Main Street in Kennebec.

This notice is posted in accordance with South Dakota Public Utilities Commission order IC97-092 and pursuant to 47 United States Section 214(e) and 47 Code of Federal Regulations Section.

NOTICE

TO ALL KENNEBEC TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., CUSTOMERS

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc., is authorized to provide two federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

- The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify
- The Link Up program provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance) | Low Income Home Energy Assistance |
| Food Stamps Program | Supplemental Security Income (SSI) |
| Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) | National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program |
| Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) Program | |

WHAT DO THE PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a waiver of the \$6.50 monthly Subscriber Line Charge and an additional credit of \$1.75 each month on the basic service portion of the telephone bill. The waiver and credit apply 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.

Link Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of applicable charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. Link Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside the home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

ENHANCED LIFELINE/LINK UP

Additional Lifeline and Link Up support is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) can verify whether or not your residence is on Tribal Lands. Enhanced Lifeline/Link Up provides for expanded eligibility requirements and additional telephone service discounts. In addition to the previously cited programs, for those individuals residing on Tribal Lands, participation in any of the following meets the eligibility standard:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance Program
- Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
- Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. In addition, if you qualify because your household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, documentation is required. More details on this documentation requirement and application forms are available at our office at: Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc.; 220 S Main Street; PO Box 158; Kennebec, SD 57544.

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 or Link Up. You are obligated by law to notify Kennebec Telephone Company, Inc., and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline and Link Up.



DATE

Dear Customer:

You currently participate in Kennebec Telephone Company's Lifeline assistance program. Federal Communications Commission guidelines require telephone companies like ours to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customers' continued eligibility.

Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF); or the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance.

Documentation of income eligibility includes a customer's prior 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 month's worth of the same type of document.

Please note: 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 are still eligible for Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application and provide supporting documentation and return it to us no later than DATE, letter date + 60 days.

Our office is located at: 220 S. Main in Kennebec. All applicants recertifying are welcome to drop the application and documentation off at our office, or you may mail them back to us in the enclosed return envelope.

Please feel free to call our office at 869-2220 with any questions you may have regarding the application or the Lifeline/Link Up programs.

Sincerely,

Rod Bowar
President / Manager

Enclosures

Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc.

Life Line Policy

All new subscribers are given Lifeline or Enhanced Lifeline applications. They are strongly encouraged to sign the acknowledgement that they received Lifeline information. This acknowledgement will be put in their file. If the subscriber does not sign the acknowledgement, a note stating they were provided Lifeline information with date provided and by who will be placed in their file.

For subscribers that participate in Lifeline or Enhanced Lifeline the following items must be completed to comply with FCC regulations.

1) Subscribers qualifying for this program under an assistance benefits program are self certifying and do not need to present documentation with their original application.

2) Subscribers qualifying for this program using the income basis for qualifying must present documentation as listed in the FCC Lifeline rule. These qualifications are listed on Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. Self-Certification for Lifeline Qualifying Under Income-Based Criterion form. When a subscriber presents documentation, the CSR verifies the document meets the income criteria and circles and initials the type of document present on the document list.

3) Per FCC regulations, Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. is required to have a Plan for Verification of Continued Eligibility for subscribers qualifying for lifeline.


Each April 1st the attached letter and a Lifeline or Enhanced Lifeline application will be sent to 33 1/3% of the subscribers qualifying for the Lifeline program. The subscriber will have 60 days to return the form with a copy of the documentation they are using to qualify for the Lifeline program. The subscriber may mail the verification form and a copy of their documentation or they may bring the form and their documentation to the office of Kennebec Telephone Co. Inc.

When the verification is returned the following steps will be completed:

- a) The CSR will review the document presented for correctness and verify that the document meets the criteria for Lifeline / Enhanced Lifeline qualification.
- b) If the documentation is acceptable, the CSR will mark on the verification form the following information, type of documentation presented, initial and date.
- c) After verification is completed the CSR will check the subscriber off the list of subscribers selected and file the verification form in that year's verification file. If a copy of documentation is received, after verification, destroy the documentation copy. The verification file will be retained for four years.
- d) If the subscriber submits unacceptable documentation the CSR will explain what acceptable documentation is and ask that the subscriber provide correct documentation.
- e) If the subscriber does not return the verification form with proper documentation at the end of the 60 days, they will be dropped from the Lifeline / Enhanced Lifeline program.

Using this random sampling method, all qualifying subscribers should be in the selected sample at least once every 3 years.

As President/Manager of Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc., I certify that the Income Qualifying Criteria and verification steps have been explained to the appropriate staff so Kennebec Telephone Co., Inc. is in compliance with the Lifeline regulations.


Rod Bowar President / Manager

5/16/05
Date

Income-based criteria will be in effect for all telephone companies that offer Lifeline beginning in June 2005. Some telephone companies may offer Lifeline discounts to individuals who qualify based on household income before that date.

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

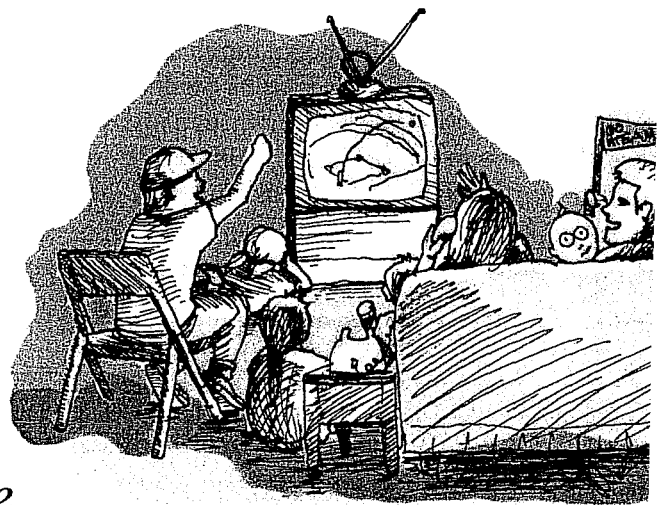
How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up and TLS support discounts?

Consumers must apply through their local telephone company — please let us know if you are interested in any of these programs. Visit the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) web site at www.lifelinesupport.org for more information about eligibility requirements. You also may call USAC toll free at 1-888-641-8722, with any questions about Lifeline, Link Up and TLS discounts.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR
COMMUNITY BASED TELECOM PROVIDER

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR
COMMUNITY BASED TELECOM PROVIDER

Yes,
*You Can Afford
Telephone Service*



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. Link-Up America (Link-Up) and the Lifeline Assistance Program (Lifeline) are 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, Link Up, 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 lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$10 per month in discounts. Additional state support also may be available.

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.

Link Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

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, 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 free lunch program

→ Income Qualification 15

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

2004 Income Requirements – 48 Contiguous States

Family Size	States & DC	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$12,569	\$15,701	\$14,445
2	\$16,862	\$21,074	\$19,386
3	\$21,155	\$26,447	\$24,327
4	\$25,448	\$31,820	\$29,268
5	\$29,741	\$37,193	\$34,209
6	\$34,034	\$42,566	\$39,150
7	\$38,327	\$47,939	\$44,091
8	\$42,620	\$53,312	\$49,032
For each additional person add	\$4,293	\$5,373	\$4,941

Need 2005 #'s

