



June 13, 2005

Pam Bonrud
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED
JUN 14 2005
**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

RE: **DOCKET TC05-058**
**In the Matter of the Review of Implementation of FCC Requirements for
Lifeline and Link-Up Programs and the Development of Additional
Outreach Efforts**

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

Enclosed please find the responses of PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission request for Information regarding the Lifeline and Link-Up Program requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Haase".

Dawn Haase
Legal Administrative Assistant
605-965-9368

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW OF)	RESPONSE OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF FCC REQUIREMENTS)	PRAIRIEWAVE COMMUNITY
FOR LIFELINE AND LINK-UP PROGRAMS)	TELEPHONE, INC.
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL)	TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
OUTREACH EFFORTS)	
)	TC05-058

Pursuant to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) order dated April 15, 2005, PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc. (PrairieWave) an ETC for certain designated areas in the state of South Dakota provides the following responses to the Commission's Request for Information.

- (1) The ETC's lifeline and link-up forms and promotional material:

Response: Forms and promotional materials attached as Exhibit A.

- (2) A description of how the ETC advertises lifeline and link-up, including the form of advertisement and how often it advertises:

Response: PrairieWave advertises in the area newspapers that cover all prefixes included in the ILEC areas. (See attached Exhibit B) PrairieWave advertises on their public information cable TV channel. (See attached Exhibit C) Annual notification is scheduled.

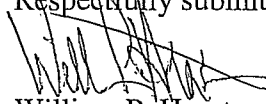
- (3) How the ETC is implementing the new certification procedures:

Response: PrairieWave has a database of all lifeline/linkup customers readily available. For those customers certifying under the income-based criteria the procedures have been put in place. See attached Exhibits D and E.

- (4) How the ETC is implementing the new verification procedures:

Response: PrairieWave will annually send out a request for verification of a sampling of Lifeline/Link-up customers as required by the FCC. PrairieWave will verify using the database of low-income assistance program participants or income reports when it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Heaston

General Counsel

PrairieWave Community Telephone, Inc.

605-9894

bheaston@prairiewave.com

Exhibit A



Lifeline and Linkup Assistance Application

(please print)

Name _____
_____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle)

Address _____
_____ (Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

Telephone Number (if you have existing service): (_____) _____

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

Please answer the following questions by checking appropriate lines:

1. I am applying for: _____ **Lifeline** monthly telephone service discount
_____ **Linkup** 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

OR

3. _____ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (Documentation and Self-Certification Letter required*.)

Continued

**2004 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household At or
Below 135 % of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous 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

I agree to notify PrairieWave 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 and/or Linkup assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

Signature

Social Security Number

Date

**Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes a copy of the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, an Unemployment/Workmen's comp statement of benefits, federal or tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. If the consumer presents documentation of income that does not cover a full year, such as current pay stubs, the consumer must present a copy of three consecutive months worth of the same types of document within that calendar year. Documentation must be presented and accepted prior to receiving any Lifeline/Linkup credit.*

Send Completed Forms to:
PrairieWave Communications
2002 Industrial Road
Viborg, SD 57070-2044



Self-Certification for Lifeline/Linkup Applicants Qualifying Under Income- Based Criterion

I, _____, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Linkup 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: _____

**This document must be signed and accompany all application forms if applying under the household income requirements.*

Exhibit B

Lifeline Linkup Notification

Individuals and families who reside in PrairieWave Communications service areas and are receiving assistance benefits or have a low or fixed income may be eligible to receive discounted telephone installation and/or service.

Customers that have the following prefixes: 238, 253, 263, 267, 297, 327, 372, 647, or 957 may be eligible for this program.

To find out more information regarding this program, stop by your local office or call PrairieWave at 1-877-633-4567.



200 South Juniper Street, Lennox, SD 57039 605.647.7450

Exhibit C

We had a message running between 3/23 and 4/6 only in the towns that the Viborg headend feeds...and we specified the towns that it was beneficial for.

"Individuals and families who reside in PrairieWave Communications service areas and are receiving assistance benefits or have a low or fixed income may be eligible to receive discounted telephone installation and/or service. Please contact PrairieWave's customer service at 1-877-633-4567 for information on the Lifeline/Linkup program."

The towns that it was in regards to were listed under this text.

Exhibit D

Instructions for Lifeline/Link Up Applications

When an application is received, verify the customer has marked one of the listed programs and has signed & dated the application.

If this is a customer with active phone service, verify on their phone account that the customer is not already receiving the lifeline credit.

Enter an order to add the lifeline credit to the customers account:

Product: Lifeline

Service: Add

In the w/o notes state the application has been received, signed and dated by the customer. Also note Contact Narrative.

If the Income Based program is marked, the customer will need to include proof of income, W2, pay stub, etc. This information will need to be entered on an Excel spreadsheet under Corp Drive, Service Delivery, ILEC Lifeline-Linkup Program Tracking. In Contact Narrative there is a code set up, Code 22:Lifeline Income Based, which is what you will select when adding your notes to the account.

The Link Up program will credit the customer 50% of their installation charges. If the Lifeline/Link Up application is received along with the original service order, the codes to credit the customer for their activation charges will be on the value option screen. The codes to select are Link Up Central Off Acc and Link Up Initial SVC Ord. If the customer has already been billed the \$50.00 activation charges, you can do an invoice complaint and credit the customer 50% of their installation charges.

Exhibit E

ILEC LifeLine / Linkup Procedure for Income Based Criteria:

The information below explains that we can NOT keep the proof of income for the income-based criteria for LifeLine / Linkup customers. The documents that the customer provides us needs to be validated and then the copy needs to be shred or mailed back to the customer.

Summary:

We received notification from the FCC that we are not allowed to keep the documentation that the applicant provides for proof of income for the income-based criteria for Lifeline/Linkup.

Procedure for walk-in customers:

- Make a copy of the proof of income and send along with the completed Lifeline/Linkup form to Marlene/Kathy to verify that the customer does, in fact, qualify under the income based criteria guideline that the FCC provided.
- Tracking sheet needs to be noted that the proof of income was verified and approved/rejected.
- Note contact narrative that the proof of income was verified and approved/rejected.
- Shred the copy of the financial information.

Procedure for documents received through mail:

- Marlene/Kathy need to verify that the customer does, in fact, qualify under the income based criteria guideline that the FCC provided.
- Tracking sheet needs to be noted that the proof of income was verified and approved/rejected.
- Note contact narrative that the proof of income was verified and approved/rejected.
- Mail back the proof of income statement back to the customer.

Income Based Criteria Graph:

**2004 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household At or
Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

Size of Family Unit	48 States
1	\$12,569
2	\$16,862
3	\$21,155
4	\$25,448
5	\$29,741
6	\$34,034
7	\$38,327
8	\$42,620
For each additional person, add	\$4,293