

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LIN UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2009**

Company: Red River Rural Telephone Association

Address: 510 Broadway – PO Box 136
Abercrombie, ND 58001

Telephone number: 701-553-8309

Company contact: Jack Plecity

Study Area Code: 381631

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities

 X Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached Richland County News-Monitor newspaper ad run October 2008.)

 X Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.* (See attached bill insert distributed April 2009.)

 X Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory. (See attached article from the directory distributed January 2009.)

underway Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.

 Company's information posted on USAC website.

 X Other (describe): Posters at telephone office, social service departments, and food pantry (See attached poster distributed October-November 2008.)

* Required

Telephone Lifeline Assistance Available

Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, "universal service" means basic telephone service is available to all consumers. Universal service is voice grade access to the telecommunications network, including local usage, touchtone calling, single-party service, access to emergency 911 services, access to operator service, access to qualifying low-income consumers. All of these services are available from Red River Rural Telephone Association in these service areas: Abercrombie, Colfax, Fairmount, Great Bend, Hankinson, Lidgerwood, Mooreton and Wyndmere, ND; Barnesville rural, Kent and Rollag, MN.

2008 charges for these universal services are:

Basic local residential service \$14.95-\$18.95/month
(Rates vary by exchange and EAS charges may apply)

Touchtone calling	No charge
Single-party service	No charge
Access to 911 service (Local government assesses a tax to pay for special equipment.)	No charge
Access to operator services	No charge
Access to directory assistance (If you call a long distance company for assistance, that company may charge for its services.)	\$.60 per call for local info
Access to long distance telephone companies (Flat rate prescribed by federal agency)	\$6.50/month
Low-income discounts	up to \$10/month
Toll-blocking	No charge

Link-up and Lifeline are low-income discounts available to qualifying subscribers, either participating in assistance programs or comparing their income to the poverty level. For more information on Lifeline, call Red River Telephone at 701-553-8309 or 1-866-553-8309.

Digital TV Transition Underway

By February 17, 2009, TV stations are required to transition their broadcast signal from analog to digital format.

What Does This Mean To You?

- If you receive your local broadcast stations through cable or satellite TV, you are already prepared for the DTV transition. However, if you have an analog TV that does not receive local broadcast stations through your paid provider, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to watch digital broadcasts.
- If you have a digital TV (a TV with a built-in digital tuner), you are ready for the switch. (If your TV is more than 10 years old, it probably is not digital. If it is less than 10 years old, check your owner's manual or ask the manufacturer.)
- If you have an analog TV with a rooftop antenna or rabbit ears on your set, you will not be able to watch broadcast stations after February 17, 2009 unless you get a digital-to-analog converter box available at retail electronics stores.

To learn more about the TV transition, go to www.dtv.gov or call 1-888-225-5322. For more about the special converter box program, visit www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon or call 1-888-388-2009.

LIFELINE & LINKUP

Telephone Assistance Programs for Low-Income Consumers

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. Red River Telephone offers residential telephone assistance programs, referred to as Link Up and Lifeline to help eligible persons establish and maintain telephone service.

Link Up can save those eligible 50% of the initial charges to hook up primary telephone service or \$30, whichever is less.

Lifeline applies only to primary local telephone service in your home. It lowers the monthly cost of telephone service by at least \$8.25. An individual is eligible by participating in one of the following programs:

- Supplemental Security Income
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Food Stamps
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- National School Lunch free lunch program

OR you may be eligible if your household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

To apply, MN and SD customers should complete the form on the reverse side. Customers in ND should contact their county social service office.

Front of bill insert

Back of bill insert

Certification for LIFELINE & LINKUP

- MN or SD Residents only -

The federal Lifeline plan & Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offer eligible persons up to \$10/month credit on their phone bill. Eligible persons receive a form of assistance listed below or self-certify based on income.

Return the completed form to Red River Telephone.

I certify under penalty of perjury that I currently receive benefits from the following program and agree to notify Red River Telephone immediately if I cease to participate

- in the program: Medicaid Food Stamps Supplemental Security Income
 Minnesota Family Investment Program Federal Public Housing Assistance
 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program National Free School Lunch
 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 Low Income - at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

(Proof of income is required —contact Red River Telephone for list of accepted documents)

Customer Name _____ Phone _____

(Must be same name as on telephone bill)

Customer Signature _____

(Must be same name as on telephone bill)

Social Security # _____ Date _____

TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Lifeline and Link-up are federal and state assistance programs which reduce telephone bills for qualified low-income customers. Lifeline offers a monthly credit up to \$10/month and the Link-up program reduces installation charges for qualified low-income customers. You may qualify for telephone assistance if you participate in one of the following assistance programs:

Supplemental Security Income	Medicaid
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	Food Stamps
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	National Free School Lunch

or you may qualify if your household income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Methods for qualifying and applying vary by state. For more information, call Red River Rural Telephone Association or your county social services office.

11" x 17" poster
scanned in two pieces

**Lifeline &
Link Up
are home
telephone
assistance
programs
that can help
eligible
people afford
telephone
service.**

Yes, You Can Afford Telephone Service... and Red River Telephone Can Show You How.

Federal and state lawmakers believe that every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. In fact, they have created a system to do just that.

You may qualify for a discount on your telephone bill if you participate in any of the following program(s):

- *Medicaid*
- *Food Stamps*
- *Supplemental Security Income (Not Social Security)*
- *Federal Public Housing Assistance*
- *Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program*
- *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*
- *National Free School Lunch Program*

or if your household income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

This "universal service" support includes:

- *Lifeline* assistance that provides discounts for basic monthly local telephone service
- *Link Up* that reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service

For more information or to find out if you are eligible, contact Red River Telephone at 701-553-8309 or call your county social service office.



*"Your Total Communications Company ~
Connecting You To The World"*