

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2010**

Company: Venture Communications/Western Telephone Company
Address: PO Box 157
218 Commercial Ave
Highmore SD 57345-0157

Telephone number: 605-852-2224
Company contact: Janelle Jessen
Study Area Code: 391688

Lifeline/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/Link Up.* (See attached letter.)
 - Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.
 - Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.
www.venturecomm.net
 - Company's information posted on USAC website.
 - Other (describe): Published in our newsletter
that is sent to Venture subscribers.
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*Required

NOTICE

TO ALL VENTURE COMMUNICATIONS COOP. CUSTOMERS

Recent changes brought about by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introductions of January 1, 1998 of new low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Effective January 1st, low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service. Details regarding the Lifeline and Link-Up programs are included on the reverse side of this notice.

If you, as a subscriber, qualify, you may complete the enclosed application form and return it to our office at:

Venture Communications Cooperative
218 Commercial Ave SE
PO Box 157
Highmore, SD 57345

It is required in signing and submitting the application that you certify under penalty of perjury that you, in fact, qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up benefits, and if, at any time, you become ineligible, you will notify Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc.

UNDER THE LIFELINE PROGRAM, ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS RECEIVE A REDUCTION TO THEIR BASIC MONTHLY TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Please read the enclosed materials carefully. If you have any questions regarding these programs, call Venture Communications Cooperative, Inc. at (800) 824-7282.

Lifeline and/or Link-Up Assistance Application

Name (Please Print): _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Apt. No.
_____ 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 and provide documentation showing participation in at least one of the programs checked*):

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 (*copy of a current tax return, a Social Security Statement of Benefits, or three consecutive months of pay stubs must also be submitted*)

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 qualifications to receive Lifeline/Link-Up assistance on my primary residential line.

Signature

Date

Send the completed application to: Venture Communications Cooperative
PO Box 157
Highmore, SD 57345

To qualify based on income level, you must provide proof that your income level is below the amounts listed below based on your family or household size. This proof may consist of a copy of your 2007 tax return, copies of three consecutive months of pay stubs or three consecutive months of bank statements, a copy of your Social Security Statement of Benefits, etc. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS as they will not be returned to you!** You must also complete the certification listed at the bottom of this page.

135% of 2008 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	Annual Income Level
1	\$14,040
2	\$18,900
3	\$23,760
4	\$28,620
5	\$33,480
6	\$38,340
7	\$43,200
8	\$48,060
For each additional person, add	\$4,860

SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK-UP 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: _____

**SELF-CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK-UP 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: _____

Lifeline Program Certification for Eligible Residents Living on Tribal Lands

(Please Print)

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Apt. No.

City State Zip Code

Social Security Number: _____

Telephone Number (if you have existing service): _____

Note: Telephone service MUST be in Lifeline 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.

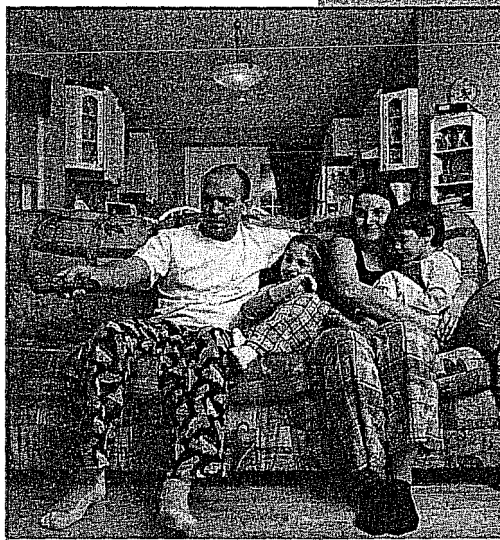
3. I am currently receiving assistance benefits from at least one of the following programs (*check all that apply and provide documentation of participation in at least one of the programs checked*):

- _____ 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)

venture vision

Video Areas Served

- ◆ Service in Town
Britton, Cresbard, Eden, Faulkton, Gettysburg, Harrold, Highmore, Langford, Pierpont, Rosholt, Sisseton, and Wessington Springs
- ◆ Service in Town and Rural Areas
Agar, Blunt, Hitchcock, Hoven, Onaka, Onida, Ree Heights, Seneca, Tolstoy, Tulare, and Wessington
- ◆ Service in Rural Areas Only
Bowdle



VENTURE VISION

Channel Listings Include

(Channels Vary by Service Area)

- ◆ All major networks (ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX and Public Broadcasting)
- ◆ ESPN, USA, Disney, CNN, Nickelodeon, American Movie Classics, The Weather Channel, TNN, Discovery, WGN (Chicago) and much more
- ◆ Premium Channels Available (optional for an additional fee)
- ◆ Go to www.venturecomm.net for a complete channel lineup.

Additional Features

- ◆ Local Channel available in most areas.
 - 1) provides local weather information.
 - 2) provides community service advertisements free of charge.
 - 3) other messages or advertisements may be placed on the local channel for a small fee.
- ◆ One Bill – Video charges are included in your monthly telephone bill, leaving you only one bill to pay.

Lifeline/Linkup and Enhanced Lifeline/Linkup Discounts

Venture Communications offers a program to its low-income subscribers that results in a rate reduction on installation and monthly services. Subscribers who participate in any of the following programs also qualify for participation in our Lifeline/Linkup programs:

- 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

In addition, a subscriber may qualify for this program if their household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Participation in any of the above programs as well as some tribal assistance programs will qualify a subscriber living on tribal lands for the Enhanced Lifeline program.

For additional information and applications forms, please contact our office at 800-824-7282.

Kris R.

From: Katy H.
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:45 PM
To: Kris R.
Cc: Rodney K.
Subject: FW: Lifeline ad
Attachments: Venture Lifeline.pdf; ATT4839612.htm

Dates this ad was inserted into the Sisseton Courier are:

- 2-3-09
- 4-7-09
- 6-30-09
- 8-04-09
- 10-6-09
- 12-01-09
- 2-2-10
- 4-13-10

I will get the same info to you from the SOTA as soon as I have it. Thanks.

From: Jennie Evenson [mailto:ads@sissetoncourier.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:38 PM
To: Katy H.
Subject: Re: Lifeline ad

here it is.

Jennie Lynn Evenson
ads@sissetoncourier.com



SAVE UP TO \$177 EVERY YEAR!

*Spend it, invest it, save it
You make the choice.*

Lifeline - Link-up is a federally funded program created to provide every customer the opportunity to have affordable telephone service.

You may be able to save \$8.25 EVERY month if you're enrolled in one of the following:

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

Individuals who live on a federally recognized reservation or trust land may qualify for a discount of \$14.75 EVERY month if they receive assistance from one of the following:

- Food Stamps
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
- National School Lunch free lunch program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance program
- Tribally or State Administered Temporary Assistance for Need Families
- Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)
- Household of 4 living on tribal/trust land w/combined income of \$27,000

Call Venture Communications
1-800-824-7282

Visit with a local, reliable person to get signed up today.

Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone Subscribers

In response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens, Venture Communications is authorized to offer Lifeline and Link-Up to our customers. Lifeline and Link-Up are federal telephone assistance programs. To be eligible for either of these programs, the applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: food stamps, federal public housing assistance, low-income home energy assistance, Medicaid, or supplemental security income (SSI).

To be eligible for the Enhanced Lifeline or the Enhanced Link-Up programs, the applicant must live on tribal land and participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: food stamps, federal public housing assistance, Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards), low-income home energy assistance, Medicaid, national school lunch program's FREE lunch program, supplemental security income (SSI), tribally administered temporary assistance for needy families or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program.

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$8.25 each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The discount applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge. Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with reduced installation charges for their basic home telephone service. The reduction is 50% of the applicable charges of \$30, whichever is less. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber. Enhanced Lifeline provides subscribers expanded eligibility opportunities and additional telephone service discounts. They may also receive long distance blocking on their telephone at no charge. Eligible subscribers for Enhanced Lifeline must live on Tribal Land. Enhanced Link-Up provides eligible subscribers with a reduction up to \$100 of charges for installation for basic home telephone service.

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can obtain an application from our main office in Highmore or the office in Sisseton and return it to either location. You may also print off an application from our website at www.venturecomm.net. When you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline or Link-Up. You are obligated by law to notify Venture Communications and advise us of your ineligibility. If you have any questions about Lifeline or Link-Up, please contact us at 1-800-824-7282 for more information.