

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

Company: Beresford Municipal Telephone Co.

Address: 101 N. 3rd St.
Beresford, SD 57004

Telephone number: 605/763-2500

Company contact: Todd Hansen, General Manager

Study Area Code: 391649

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).) – See note below.
- 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.companywebsiteaddress.com))
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): Posted on Public Office Bulletin Board

Note Re: General Distribution – one of Beresford's key employees who was in charge of Lifeline/Linkup documentation and filings was diagnosed with a terminal illness and was out of the office beginning in September 2009. She ultimately passed away in December 2009 leaving a huge void in the Company's operations. In the past the Company filed the Lifeline/LinkUp notice in a media of general distribution in the fourth quarter of each year. Due to this employee's illness and time away from the office, the advertisement was not placed in 2009. However, there was an advertisement placed in the Company's newsletter in March 2010 (see attached for copy) and the advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper (media of general distribution) the week of May 31, 2010.

*Required

**BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE &
BERESFORD CABLEVISION**

TELEPHONE TALK

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 1, 2010

Don't Give up that Landline!

Before you make the decision to disconnect your landline telephone service, think about all the benefits of having your home phone:

- Your number will be listed in the telephone directory & Directory Assistance.
- Uninterrupted telephone service during power outages.
- No dropped calls due to losing a signal.
- Superior call quality.
- Local customer service.
- Fast, affordable & convenient local repair.
- **And most important, access to 911 operators. When you dial 911 from your 763-landline phone, your call goes directly to Beresford's Public Safety Answering Point who will be able to see your name, number & location and will send immediate assistance. Don't be without a landline phone! Your safety and security are never old-fashioned!**

Lifeline/Link-Up

Lifeline is a program that can provide you with basic telephone service at a reduced rate, and if you are a first time customer, you may apply for the Link Up to help pay 50% (\$30 max) of the installation charge. To sign up for Lifeline, you need to qualify for one of the following programs:

- * Medicaid
- * Food Stamps
- * Supplemental Security Income
- * Federal Public Housing Assistance
- * Low Income Energy Assistance
- * Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- * National School Lunch's Free Lunch Program

You may also qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. With this, you must provide documentation of your income eligibility. To sign up for Lifeline, either stop in the BMTC office or City Hall to fill out an application, or give us a call at 763-2500 and we can send an application to you.

Stop Waiting and Sign up NOW for DSL Internet!

Are you still *waiting and waiting* while your internet dials up? If you're tired of playing the waiting game, it's time for you to make the move up to DSL Internet. No more waiting for your grandchildren's pictures to download, no more waiting for that great recipe from your sister, and no more waiting for that long-winded joke from your brother-in-law. Once you've switched to DSL, you'll wonder why you waited so long! And we've made the cost lower for you! When you upgrade to DSL & sign a 6-month contract, you'll get the DSL modem FREE, and it's yours to keep. So stop waiting and give us a call today to make the move up to DSL!



BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

101 N. THIRD STREET • BERESFORD, SD 57004-1796
Phone (605) 763-2008 • FAX (605) 763-7112
E-mail phone @ bmtc.net • URL http://www.bmtc.net

LIFELINE/LINK-UP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION
(Please print)

Name: Last First M.I.
Address: Street City State Zip

Social Security Number: Telephone Number:

Telephone number where you can be reached: (Area code + 7 digit number)

I am applying for: Low-Income telephone connection assistance (Link-Up)
Low-Income monthly telephone bill assistance (Lifeline)

Have you previously received Link-Up assistance at this address:
Yes No (If "yes", you are not eligible for Link-Up at this time.)

- I currently participate in one or more of the following programs: (check all that apply)
Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Public Housing Assistance Program (Section 8)
Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF)
National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program

Is your household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines?
Yes No (If yes, documentation required.)

Note: Telephone service MUST be in program participant's name (with the exception of the National School Lunch Program).

I understand completion of this certification form does not constitute immediate acceptance into this program. I agree to notify BMTC if I cease to participate in any of the public assistance programs I checked above or if my income becomes greater than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

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 the above qualifications to receive assistance from these programs.

Signature Date

TOLL FRAUD - cont'd

U.S. CODE, TITLE 18 Section 1343

Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to obtain money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, promises, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or communication in interstate or foreign commerce, and writings, signs, signals, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

LL NO., 639, as passed by the Fifty-Second Session of the Legislature of the South Dakota stipulates the following:

person owning or having control of any pipes, wires, cables, or other facilities for the transmission of gas, oil, electricity, water, communications, or other products or services, which are buried beneath the surface of the ground, including areas in the limits of any political subdivision, shall give written notice thereof to the owner of the register of deeds in the county where the facilities are located.

register of deeds of each county where the facilities described are buried shall establish and maintain a uniform file system containing the information furnished by the owner or person having control of these facilities.

person intending to conduct any digging, grading, leveling, excavating, blasting, or similar activities upon the lands described in the notice shall request the owner or person having control of the facilities to accurately locate them upon the land where they are situated, at least two days per location, not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the commencement of the activity.

LIFELINE, LINK UP, AND TOLL LIMITATION SERVICES

Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service support provide discounts to eligible consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. Note: Communications carriers cannot charge a Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the telephone portion of their telephone bill.

of discount is available?

Assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$8.25 per month in discounts.

Residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

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 to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment plan for remaining costs of up to \$200.

Low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS) support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

How do I know whether I am eligible?

For Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in a state that has its own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support. Consumers must meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not

LIFELINE, LINK UP, AND TOLL LIMITATION SERVICES - cont'd

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 Program's free lunch program

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

To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discounts, please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 101 N. 3rd, Beresford, SD 57004 or (605)763-2500.

USE OF TELEPHONE FOR DEBT COLLECTION PURPOSES

The Federal Communications Commission has received information that interstate telephone service is being used for collection of claimed debts in ways that are or may be in violation of applicable tariffs of the telephone companies and criminal statutes. Practices alleged include calling at odd hours of the day or night; repeated calls; calls to friends, neighbors, relatives, employers, and children; calls making a variety of threats; calls asserting falsely that credit ratings will be hurt; calls falsely stating that legal process is about to be served; calls demanding payments for amounts not owed; calls to places of employment; and calls misrepresenting the terms and conditions of existing or proposed contracts. Although many of these calls are placed on a local basis, there is increasing indication that such improper practices also involve use of interstate toll and Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS).

Tariffs of the telephone companies forbid use of the telephone "... for a call or calls, anonymous or otherwise, if in a manner reasonably to be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another;" or for calls that "... interfere unreasonably with the use of the service by one or more other customers;" or calls for "... unlawful purpose." Upon violation of any of these conditions the telephone company can, by written notice, discontinue service "forthwith." These tariff regulations are filed with this Commission pursuant to Section 203 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 203, and are binding on the telephone company and customer alike. Users of the telephone service are also subject to the enforcement proceedings provided for in Sections 401 and 411 of the Communications Act. In addition to the loss of telephone service for violation of the tariffs, Section 223 of the Communications Act makes it a crime to use the telephone in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign communications to make "repeated telephone calls, during which conversation ensues, solely to harass any person at the called number" or to knowingly permit "others to use his telephone" for such purpose. Penalties for violation of Section 223 are a fine up to \$500.00 or six months' imprisonment, or both, 47 U.S.C. 223.

The Commission is concerned that some users of telephone service may be unaware of their obligations to refrain from using the service for abusive or harassing calls. It is also concerned that other users may be willfully and repeatedly violating the provision of the tariffs and the applicable statutes, and that the telephone companies are not adequately enforcing their tariffs. Accordingly, the Commission is issuing this Public Notice in order that the public may be informed of the requirements of law in this area and so that users may be alerted to their legal obligations in the use of the telephone and the penalties for failure to abide by them.



Directory

NOTICE

TO ALL BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY CUSTOMERS

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company 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	Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Food Stamps	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Housing Assistance	Temporary Aid to Needy Families
National School Lunch free lunch 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.

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: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company; 101 North 3rd Street; Beresford, SD 57004.

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 Beresford Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline and Link Up.