

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 1, 2011**

Company: Western Telephone Company

Address: PO Box 476

218 Commercial Ave. SE

Highmore, SD 57345

Telephone number: 605-852-2224

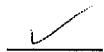
Company contact: Janelle Jessen

Study Area Code: 391688

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:



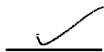
Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)



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): Newsletter

*Required



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 Needy 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.

lifeline and/or link-up application

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. Also, residential customers may only receive lifeline support for one telephone line (if you receive lifeline support on a wireless line, you may not also receive it for a land line phone and vice versa).

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 INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION 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. I certify that I am not receiving lifeline support on any other residential line.

Signature

Date

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

venture vision

Video TV Areas Served *

- ◆ Service in Town
Britton, Cresbard, Eden, Faulkton, 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, Wessington and Gettysburg
- ◆ Service in Rural Areas Only
Bowdle

*For video trouble, including closed caption trouble, please call 1-800-824-7282.

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.

Website

Venture Communications Cooperative

- [view bill / pay bill](#)
- [check webmail](#)

- [home](#)
- [packages](#)
- [voice](#)
- [video](#)
- [internet](#)
- [wireless](#)
- [business](#)
- [about us](#)
- [my venture](#)

- [Voice](#)
- [Calling Features](#)
- [Venture Calling Plans](#)
- [Long Distance Carriers](#)
- [Telephone Assistance Programs](#)

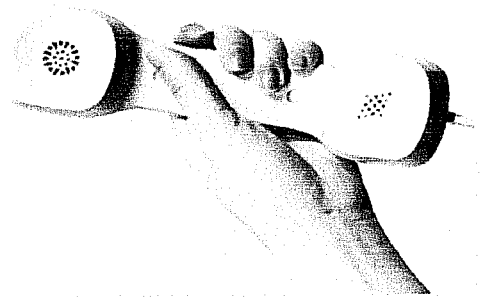
Quick Links

- [Sign Up Now! Sign up for our services.](#)
- [Contact Us Get in touch.](#)
- [FAQs Get answers to common questions.](#)

Telephone Assistance Programs

LINKUP AND LIFELINE

Government assistance programs are available that offer qualified consumers discounts on activation fees, installation and monthly telephone billing. Contact Venture Communications today at 1-800-824-7282 for further information regarding these programs. To sign up, click on the appropriate link below, fill out the application online, print and mail to the address on the form.



- [Lifeline/Linkup Application](#)
- [Lifeline/Linkup Tribal Application](#)

Clear Connections

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Scholarships Available

to High School Seniors

Venture Communications is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for the year 2011 have been mailed to local schools throughout the state. Venture Communications awards 12 Citizenship and Community Service Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to students whose parent or legal guardian resides in and is an active telephone subscriber within a Venture Communications Cooperative telephone exchange. The scholarships will be awarded based upon citizenship, community service, academics and school involvement.

Also available is the scholarship opportunity through the Foundation for Rural Service in conjunction with Venture Communications. The FRS awards national scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 with an additional \$500 contributed by Venture Communications, if a recipient is chosen from one of our exchanges. Preference is given to those expressing an interest in returning to work in a rural area after graduation. All applicants must have a parent or legal guardian as an active member of Venture Communications Cooperative.

Applications and information for these scholarships are available from local high school counselors or by contacting Venture Communications at P.O. Box 157, Highmore, S.D. 57345 or by calling us at 1-800-824-7282.

Lifeline Link-Up Program Offers Savings... Find Out How YOU Can Benefit

With the current economic conditions causing challenges for many of us on a monthly basis, we want to remind you of the financial benefit that is offered through the Lifeline Link-Up Program.

Venture Communications is proud to have helped many customers this past year thru the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Link-Up Program, providing discounted installation and monthly telephone service to qualifying consumers.

Lifeline Program

You may be eligible for the Lifeline Program and its \$8.25 monthly savings if you're a participant in at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, or the National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program.

Enhanced Lifeline Program

The Enhanced Lifeline Program provides telephone service to anyone who lives on tribal lands. It expands the eligibility requirements listed under the Lifeline Program to also include participation in: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Programs, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Tribal Head Start, or the Tribal National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program.

In addition, you may be eligible for the monthly savings if your household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. Qualifying income levels for the year 2011 range from \$14,040 for a single person household to \$48,060 for a family of eight.



Link-Up Program

Another Federal Program, Link-Up, provides for financial assistance with connection charges for new customer. This can provide a discount of 50% on your telephone connection charges.

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can obtain an application from our main office in Highmore, the office in Sisseton or online 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 when you are no longer eligible. If you have any questions about Lifeline or Link-Up, please contact us at 1-800-824-7282 for more information.

www.venturecomm.net

venture
communications
cooperative

KEEPING YOU ...

In Touch

January 2011 | Volume 34 | Number 371

Venture Communications Introduces Connected Home Experience

Venture Communication's Connected Home Experience allows you to share and secure your wireless home connection and manage how and when the Internet is used. Venture Communication's Managed WiFi and Firewall enable you to access the router's wireless configuration remotely via the Control Panel. The Control Panel provides a simple dashboard to manage your home network settings and applications from anywhere in the world. Because it is browser-based, the Control Panel can be viewed on a PC or smart phone.

Manage your WiFi and Firewall for only \$2.99 per month

Configuring WiFi has historically been challenging for customers. Venture Communication's Managed WiFi routers are designed to be simple to configure and operate. Make your home or office wireless.

Content Filtering \$2.99 per month*

Whole home content filtering provides consumers the ability to create a specific list of websites that are allowed or blocked for each individual device in the home, and apply the list of allowed or blocked websites to new devices connected to the home network by default.

Time Blocking \$2.99 per month*

Whole Home Time Blocking allows consumers to specify periods of time during weeknights and weekends for each device to have access to the Internet. It also allows them to specify the amount of time per day each device can have access to the Internet.

Contact Venture Communications at 1-800-824-7282 or at venture@venturecomm.net to take control of your internet.

Activation fees apply to all products.

*Must subscribe to Managed WiFi to receive this product.

