

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

Company: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company

Address: 101 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Beresford, SD 57004

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Telephone number: 605/763-2500

Company contact: Todd Hansen, General Manager

Study Area Code: 391649

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

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

X Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.\* (See attached letter.)

X Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.

       Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.  
([www.companywebsiteaddress.com](http://www.companywebsiteaddress.com))

X Company's information posted on USAC website.

X Other (describe): Posted on Public Office Bulletin Board

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\*Required





## 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](mailto:phone@bmtc.net) • URL <http://www.bmtc.net>

### Notice to Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Customers November 1, 2010

**Lifeline, Link Up** and **Toll Blocking** support is available from Beresford Municipal Telephone Company. These programs provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service.

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. It provides eligible consumers 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.

**Link Up** reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service by providing a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. 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.

**Toll Blocking** allows eligible consumers to choose this option at no cost.

Customers are eligible if they participate in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines. **Consumers who qualify based on household income must provide supporting documentation.** *Please note: income is all income actually received by all members of the household.* Income includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker's compensation benefits, gifts & lottery winnings. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing & cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs such as babysitting or lawn mowing.

If you would like more information or would like to apply for this low-income assistance, please contact BMTc 763-2500 or stop by our office at 120 E. Main Street.

*November 2010 Bill Insert*



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ # 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

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

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

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

*Given to new customers*

## 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, representations, promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, communication in interstate or foreign commerce, and writings, signs, signals, 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.

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

Person owning or having control of any pipes, wires, cables, or other facilities for transmission of gas, oil, electricity, water, communications, or other products or services, which are buried beneath the surface of the ground, including areas within the limits of any political subdivision, shall give written notice thereof to 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 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 controlling 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 portion of their telephone bill.

### **Distance discount is available?**

Distance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers 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.

Discounts reduce 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 up 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 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

**Link Up 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?**

Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in

## 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.

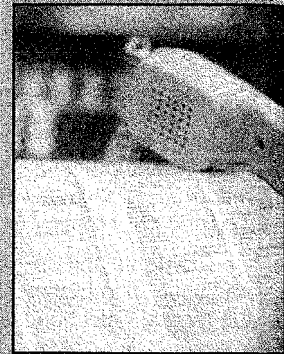
To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discounts, please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 101 N. 3rd, Beresford, SD 57004 or (605)763-2500.

## 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



## 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.

*Pasted on Bulletin Board*