

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

Company: Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Association, Inc.

Address: PO Box 7

Herreid, SD 57632-0007

Telephone number: 605-437-2615

Company contact: Lisa Ochsner or Marcia Huber

Study Area Code: 391685

**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.
- X   Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.  
([www.valleytel.net](http://www.valleytel.net))

  X   Company's information posted on USAC website.

       Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

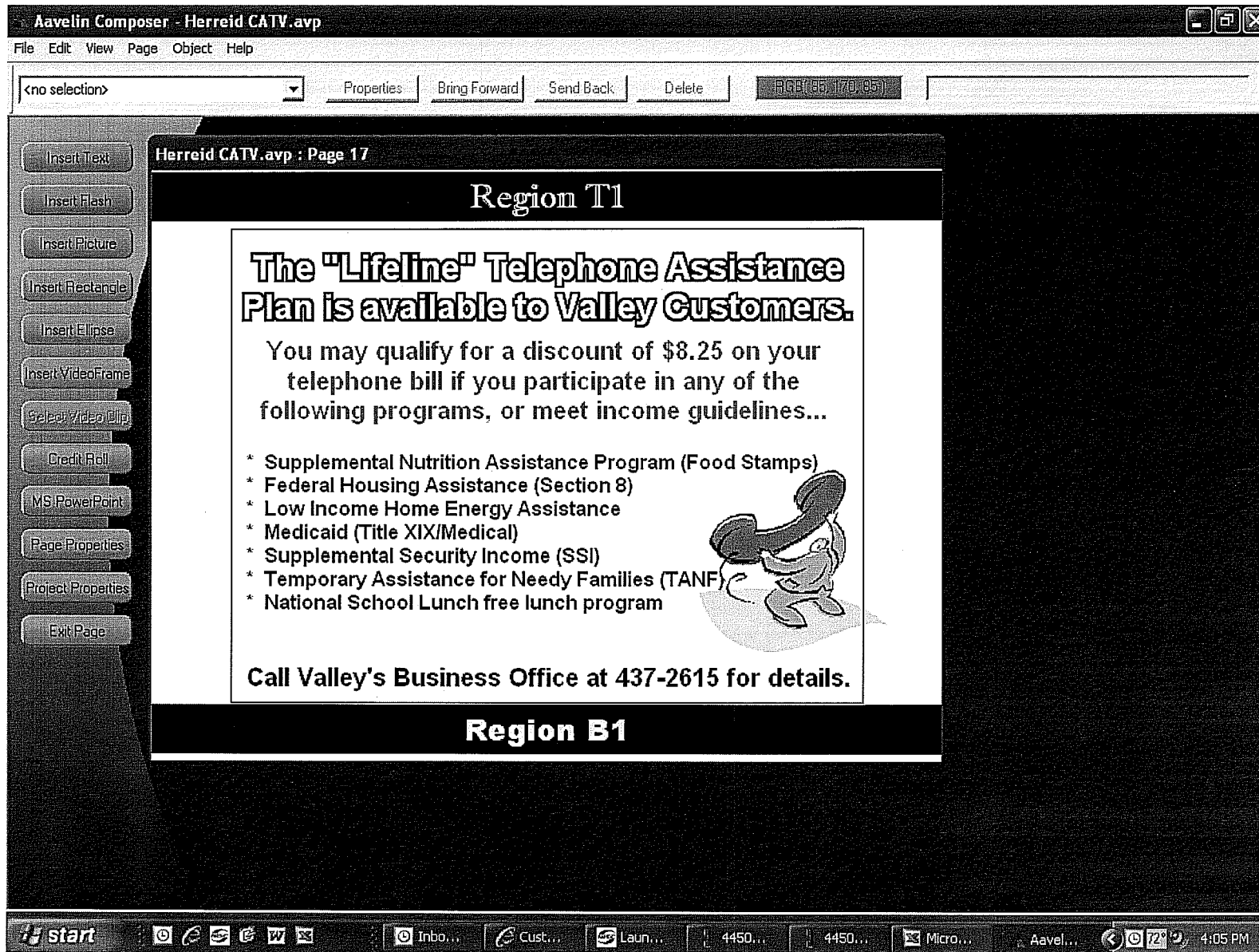
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Required

## **ADVERTISEMENTS IN MEDIA OF GENERAL DISTRIBUTION**

Channel 2 on our video tv system



# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
 ) ss  
County of Edmunds )

D.E. Gibson of said County and State, being first duly sworn on his oath says: The Ipswich Tribune; a weekly newspaper in general circulation, printed and published in Ipswich, in said County and State by the Gibson Publishing and Printing Company; and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that said newspaper now has, and has had during the publication of the attached advertisement, a bonafide circulation of at least 200 copies weekly, and has been published within the said County of Edmunds fifty-two successive weeks prior to the publication of said attached advertisement, and was during the publications of said advertisement, and now is, printed in whole or in part, in an office maintained at said place of publication. That said newspaper is and has been during the publication of attached advertisement, a legal newspaper, as defined by the laws of the state of South Dakota.

That I, D.E. Gibson, the undersigned, am  
Publisher of said newspaper and am in charge of the advertising

thereof and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit and

that the advertisement headed

FEDERAL LIFELINE NOTICE

a printed copy of which hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for one successive issues.

The First publication being made on the 29 day of Dec., 2010

The Second publication being made on the day of ,

The Third publication being made on the day of ,

The Fourth publication being made on the day of ,

The Fifth publication being made on the day of ,

The Sixth publication being made on the day of ,

The Seventh publication being made on the day of ,

The Eighth publication being made on the day of ,

The Ninth publication being made on the day of ,

The Tenth publication being made on the day of ,

That the full amount of the fee charged for publication of said annexed notice inures to the benefit of the publisher of the The Ipswich Tribune; that no agreement or understanding for the division of the fee thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

The charges for said legal publications are Twenty-two

Dollars and no cents (\$22.00)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of Dec., 2010

Notary Public Edmunds County, South Dakota.

Commission Expires Feb. 26, 2013

## Federal Lifeline Notice

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic Services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service \$15.50/month  
Single Party Business Service \$15.50/month

Local residence and business service includes: voice grade access to the public telephone network, single-party flat-rated local service free of per minutes charges, dual tone multi-frequency (touch-tone) service, access to directory assistance service, access to other operator services, access to 911 emergency services, access to interexchange (long distance) services, toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Wk/a the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Valley Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Valley Telecommunication's business office at (605) 437-2615.



PO Box 7 - 102 Main St  
Herreid SD 57632-0007  
www.valleytel.net

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA )  
 ) ss  
County of Edmunds )

D.E. Gibson of said County and State, being first duly sworn on his oath says: Roscoe-Hosmer Independent is a weekly newspaper in general circulation, printed and published in Ipswich, in said County and State by the Gibson Publishing and Printing Company; and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that said newspaper now has, and has had during the publication of the attached advertisement, a bonafide circulation of at least 200 copies weekly, and has been published within the said County of Edmunds fifty-two successive weeks prior to the publication of said attached advertisement, and was during the publications of said advertisement, and now is, printed in whole or in part, in an office maintained at said place of publication. That said newspaper is and has been during the publication of attached advertisement, a legal newspaper, as defined by the laws of the state of South Dakota.

That I, D.E. Gibson, the undersigned, am  
Publisher of said newspaper and am in charge of the advertising

thereof and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit and

that the advertisement headed

FEDERAL LIFELINE NOTICE

a printed copy of which hereto attached, was printed and published in the said  
newspaper for one successive issues.

The First publication being made on the 29 day of Dec. 2010

The Second publication being made on the day of

The Third publication being made on the day of

The Fourth publication being made on the day of

The Fifth publication being made on the day of

The Sixth publication being made on the day of

The Seventh publication being made on the day of

The Eighth publication being made on the day of

The Ninth publication being made on the day of

The Tenth publication being made on the day of

That the full amount of the fee charged for publication of said annexed notice inures to the benefit of the publisher of the Roscoe-Hosmer Independent; that no agreement or understanding for the division of the fee thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

The charges for said legal publications are Twenty-two

Dollars and no cents (\$22.00)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29 day of Dec. 2010

Jenna M. Gibson

Notary Public Edmunds County, South Dakota.

My Commission Expires  
Feb. 26, 2013

## Federal Lifeline Notice

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Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Valley Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Valley Telecommunication's business office at (605) 437-2615.



PO Box 7 - 102 Main St  
Herrid SD 57632-0007  
www.valleytel.net

# Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY OF CAMPBELL

ss:

I, Leah Burke, being first duly sworn under oath say: the **Prairie Pioneer** is a legal weekly newspaper of general circulation as required by South Dakota Codified Laws, and any acts amendatory thereto, published to Allan and Leah Burke in said county and state, and has been such legal newspaper during the time hereinafter mentioned; that during all of said time as an employee or officer of said newspaper, I have had personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit; that the advertisement headed:

Federal Lifeline Notice

## Federal Lifeline Notice

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic Services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service \$15.50/month  
Single Party Business Service \$15.50/month

Local residence and business service includes: voice grade access to the public telephone network, single-party flat-rated local service free of per minutes charges, dual tone multi-frequency (touch-tone) service, access to directory assistance service, access to other operator services, access to 911 emergency services, access to interexchange (long distance) services, toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

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**VALLEY**

PO Box 7 - 102 Main St  
Herreid SD 57632-0007  
www.valleytel.net

A printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in said newspaper for... successive weeks upon the following dates, to wit:

..... 12/30, 2010 ..... , 20 .....  
..... , 20 ..... , 20 .....  
..... , 20 ..... , 20 .....  
..... , 20 ..... , 20 .....  
..... , 20 ..... , 20 .....

That the full amount of the fees charged for publishing the same

to wit: the sum of ..... \$61.48/.....

inures solely to the benefit of the publishers of said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for any division of this sum has been made with any other person; and that no part of said sum has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

*Leah Burke*

subscribed and sworn to before me this

30th day of, December, 2010

*Gloria J. Soule*

GLORIA J. SOULE  
Notary Public  
State of North Dakota  
My Commission Expires JUNE 5, 2015

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

The NW Blade  
PO Box 797; Eureka, SD 57437  
605-284-2631

STATE OF South Dakota; COUNTY OF Mc Pherson

I, Heidi Morlock, am authorized by the publisher as agent to make this affidavit of publication. Under oath, I state that the following is true and correct.

The NW Blade, is a newspaper which is published weekly and is of general circulation and is in compliance with South Dakota Newspaper Association legalized Statutes.

The notice has been published in the newspaper listed above.

DATE(S) OF PUBLICATION:

- 1) 12-30-10 Required Federal Notice
- 2) 12-23-10 Notice of Forfeiture of Property Rights
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

THE NAME OF THE CORPORATION / GOVERNMENT OFFICE: Valley Telecommunications

TYPE OF DOCUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:

Heidi Morlock, Editor  
Heidi Morlock, Editor

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON THE

29 DAY OF Dec, 2010.

NOTARY SIGNATURE: Barry Lepp

My com. expires on 12/31, 2010

## Federal Lifeline Notice

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Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

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PO Box 7 - 102 Main St  
Herreid SD 57632-0007  
[www.valleytel.net](http://www.valleytel.net)

Northwest Blade  
12-29-2010



**Please Don't Urin and Urine**

Bartholomew 187 and 186,  
his 187.  
series – Lloyd Dais 538,  
Milloto 501, Roland Kary  
Scott Bartholomew 498.  
week 15)

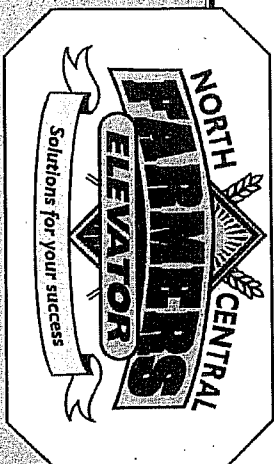
**Best Wishes for a Happy  
and Healthy 2011!**



**Body Shop  
Enreka, SD  
605-284-2524**

**COURTESY CARP AVAILABLE**

Knows Best 39-21, Sur-  
7-23, Jeopardy 23-37,  
1-39.  
Name – Carol Ackerman  
ole Swann 148, Delores  
44.  
Series – Delores Heupel  
ol Ackerman 386, Mar-  
an 371.



# ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

**Friday, January 7, 2011**

**Father Bormann Hall - Ipswich, SD**

**Dinner: Noon • Speaker: 1:00 p.m. • Business Meeting: 2:00 p.m.**

## Business Meeting agenda:

2010 Financial Statement Review  
Director Election Report  
Other business which may  
come before the meeting

### GUEST SPEAKER

**Humorist  
Darnion Mason**

**\*\* Additional Premiums for Size  
\*\* LARGE is Variety Specific**

**Call Lee or Danny for additional information**

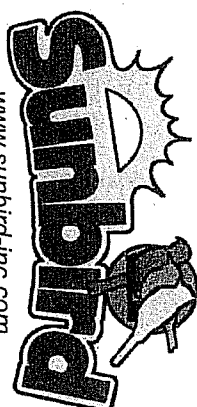
**Danny: 605 412-0129**

**Large Sunflowers, Oil or Confection**

**Lee: 605 350-7486**

**Any Size Sunflowers, Millets, Milo, Safflower, Peas**

**Contact:**



**www.sunbird-inc.com**

**800-284-9214**

**Prices Subject to Change**

**Huron, SD**

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Lifeline and Link-Up telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (aka the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program; receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Public Housing Assistance; receive Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; or have household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available.

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**VALLEY**

PO Box 7 - 102 Main St  
Herrid SD 57632-0007  
www.valleytel.net

## **LETTERS TO EXISTING AND NEW CUSTOMERS**

sent out with our yearly verification and  
for existing customers requesting the information

Dear Customer:

Valley Telecommunications participates in the Lifeline Telephone assistance program. Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program.

Or

- Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty. Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance.

If you are eligible for Lifeline/Linkup assistance under any of the programs listed above, please complete the enclosed application.

If you qualify for Lifeline/Linkup assistance based on household income, please complete the enclosed application and Income Certification Form, attach the required documentation\* and return it to our office in the enclosed return envelope.

\*Documentation of income eligibility includes the previous year's state or federal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, or other such official documents. If your documentation does not cover an entire year, please provide three consecutive month's worth of the same type of document. Please note that *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 and lottery winnings. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances and irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing.

If you require assistance completing the forms, please feel free to stop by our office at 102 Main St in Herreid or you may contact our business office @ 437-2615 and we will be happy to assist you.

Please note that Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines require telephone companies, like ours, to annually verify a sample of Lifeline customers' for continued eligibility in the program. You may be required to complete the application and/or provide additional information on a yearly basis for random sampling purposes.

Sincerely,

Billing Department  
Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc.

Enclosures

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Telephone service must be in the applicants name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible (documentation required):

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

## OTHER WAYS TO QUALIFY

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based," and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up if the your income is at ,or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (2009 Guidelines extended into 2010.)

Size of Family Unit	2011 Req.
1	\$14,702
2	\$19,859
3	\$25,016
4	\$30,173
5	\$35,330
6	\$40,487
7	\$45,644
8	\$50,801
For Each Additional Person, Add	\$ 5,157

## THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TV

After June 12, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting.

Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players and similar products.

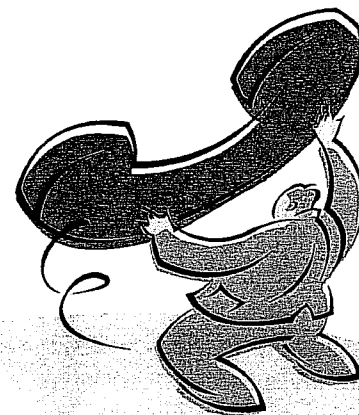
The DTV transition will have no effect on Valley Video TV subscribers. Analog sets not connected to a cable/video tv service may need additional equipment (i.e. converter box) or may have to be replaced.

Information about the DTV transition is available from [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009.

Updated 02/02/11

## LIFELINE AND LINK-UP

## TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



# VALLEY

Valley Telecommunications Coop Assn Inc.

PO Box 7 ~ 102 Main St S

Herreid SD 57632-0007

[www.valleytel.net](http://www.valleytel.net)

Phone: 437-2615

Toll Free: 1-800-437-2615

Fax: 437-2220

# WHAT IS LIFELINE?

## THE PROGRAM

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn, Inc. 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 a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$1.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.
- The **Link-Up** program provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of the 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 your home and is limited to one time, per home address, per subscriber.

## INCOME CERTIFICATION

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criteria, and wish to apply for Lifeline or Link-Up Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.\* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, a current income statements from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, and Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. (Subsection 54.410(a))

*\*Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing, and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.*

## COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criteria.

By signing and submitting the application, 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 Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures may include random beneficiary audits, periodic submission of documents, or annual self-certification.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided with this brochure (include documentation) and mail it to:

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative

PO Box 7

Herreid SD 57632-0007

If you are applying for assistance under the income-based criteria, you must also include the supporting documentation of income as indicated.



## Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Application

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Valley Telco Assigned Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Number where you can be reached : (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

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 participating in the following program(s):  
(check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid(ex.Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Public Housing Assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
\_\_\_\_\_ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

OR

3. \_\_\_\_\_ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (documentation required)

I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. if/when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature Social Security Number Date

Return to: Valley Telco, PO Box 7, Herreid, SD 57632-0007



## Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Application

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Valley Telco Assigned Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Number where you can be reached : (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

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 participating in the following program(s):  
(check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid(ex.Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Public Housing Assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
\_\_\_\_\_ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

OR

3. \_\_\_\_\_ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (documentation required)

I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. if/when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature Social Security Number Date

Return to: Valley Telco, PO Box 7, Herreid, SD 57632-0007

Dear Customer,

If you qualify for the Lifeline discount based on income criteria, you MUST complete this form. If you qualify based on program criteria, you DO NOT need to complete this form.

Customer Name	Customer Telephone Number	Date	Time
---------------	---------------------------	------	------

***\*\*Please complete the following section and return to Valley with supporting income documentation. The documentation will be verified and certified, and may be returned to you upon your request.***

### Self Certification for Lifeline/Link Up Under Income-Based Criteria

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify  
(Customer requesting Lifeline/Link-up Assistance)

for Lifeline/Link-Up 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 Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household. I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc., if/when I no longer qualify for Lifeline/Link-up assistance under the income based criteria.

Customer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the following information for all household members, including yourself.

FULL NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	AMOUNT OF INCOME CONTRIBUTED TO HOUSEHOLD	SOURCE OF INCOME
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

***(FOR COMPANY USE ONLY – CUSTOMER DO NOT COMPLETE)***

### Company Certification for Receipt of Income Supporting Documentation

I acknowledge that Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. has received self-certification and income documentation from the applicant as listed above. I certify that the documentation provided by this applicant is proprietary and for the sole purpose of verifying income-based eligibility in the Lifeline/Link-Up telephone assistance programs.

Customer Service Representative, Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc.

Witness

Date and Time

Date and Time

**Lifeline/Link-Up Income Based Self-Certification  
Income Certification and Company Certification for Receipt of Income Documentation**

REV 05/2005



## Telephone Assistance Programs

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. 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 a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$1.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

The **Link-Up** program provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of the applicable charges, or \$30.00, which ever is less. Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time, per home address, per subscriber.

**Telephone service must be in the applicant's name.** The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program



(Continued) Telephone Assistance Programs

## Other ways to qualify

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based," and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up if your income is at, or below, 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Size of Family Unit	2011 Requirements
1	\$14,702
2	\$19,859
3	\$25,016
4	\$30,173
5	\$35,330
6	\$40,487
7	\$45,644
8	\$50,801
For each additional person add:	\$ 5,157

## Income Certification

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criterion, and wish to apply for Lifeline or Link-Up Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.\* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, a current income statement from an employer or a paycheck stub (at least 2 months), a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, an Unemployment/Worker's Compensation statement of benefits, federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official documentation. (Subsection 54.410(1)).

*\*Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.*





### Could I become ineligible?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criterion.

By signing and submitting the application, 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 Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures include random surveys, presentation of supporting documentation, and self-certification.

### How do I apply?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided and mail it to:

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative

PO Box 7

Herreid, SD 57632

If you are applying for assistance under the income-based criterion, you must also include the supporting documentation of income as indicated.

## Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Application

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (ZIP)

Valley Telco Assigned Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Number where you can be reached: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions (check appropriate lines):

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 participating in the following program(s): (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid (ex. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Public Housing Assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  
\_\_\_\_\_ National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

OR

3. \_\_\_\_\_ My household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal  
Poverty Guidelines. (documentation required)

I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc. if/when I no longer qualify based on the above criteria.

I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet at least one of the above qualifications to receive Lifeline and/or Link-Up assistance on my primary residential telephone line.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature Social Security Number Date

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Customer Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please complete the following section and return to Valley with supporting income documentation. The documentation will be verified and certified, and may be returned to you upon request.**

**SELF CERTIFICATION FOR LIFELINE/LINK-UP UNDER INCOME-BASED CRITERION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify for Lifeline/Link-Up assistance based on my

(Customer requesting Lifeline/Link-Up Assistance)

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 Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. accurately represents the annual income of all members of my household. I agree to notify Valley Telecommunications Coop., Assn., Inc. if/when I no longer qualify for Lifeline/Link-Up assistance under the income based criterion.

Customer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the following information for all household members, including yourself.

Full Name	Date of Birth	Amount of Income Contributed to Household	Source of Income
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



**Relay South Dakota**

**DIAL 7-1-1**

**What is Relay South Dakota?**

Relay South Dakota provides telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-disabled. Relay South Dakota is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with no restrictions on the length or number of calls placed. Relay South Dakota provides state-of-the-art technology; a full range of features and highly trained Professional Communication Assistants (CAs) to ensure that users are able to communicate easily and effectively—every time they place a relay call. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of any conversations will be maintained.

**\*\*Information provided by TEDP, SD Department of Human Services.**

**E-Bill**

E-Bill is a secure, easy-to-use way for customers to electronically pay their bill, and manage their account online. Customers can easily receive, view and pay their bill over the Internet. This is a free service provided to all customers.

**E-Bill Features and Benefits:**

- Accessible from any Internet connection worldwide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Saves time with no more checks to write or bills to mail
- View current and previous statements
- Setup recurring monthly payments
- Flexible customer payment options allowing debit/credit card payment on demand
- View payment history and tracking
- Ability to click a number within their bill which is linked to directory listing information, so they can see who a call was placed to, if it is a listed number, if they are subscribers of Valley Long Distance
- Report a trouble

## **INFORMATION IN DIRECTORY**

# TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PLAN

## The Program

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc. 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.

## Lifeline

The Lifeline program provides a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$1.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no additional charge.

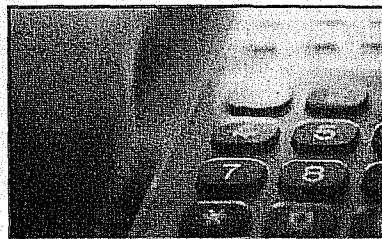
## Link-Up

The Link-Up program provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of the 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 your home and is limited to one time, per home address, per subscriber.

## Who is Eligible?

Telephone service must be in the applicant's name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program



## Other Ways to Qualify

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based", and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up if your income is at, or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Current guidelines may be obtained by contacting Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc. or visit [www.universalservice.org](http://www.universalservice.org).

## Income Certification

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criteria, and wish to apply for Lifeline or Link-Up Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.\* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return; a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; a Social Security statement of benefits; a Veterans Administration statement of benefits; a retirement/pension statement of benefits; and unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. (Subsection 54.410(a))

\* Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing, and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.

## Could I become ineligible?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criteria.

By signing and submitting the application, 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 Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures may include random beneficiary audits, periodic submission of documents, or annual self-certification.

## How to Apply

Contact Valley Telecommunications Coop. Assn., Inc. to obtain an application and income certification and verification form and provide all supporting documentation to Valley's business office at: PO Box 7, 102 Main St. S., Herreid, SD 57632; or call 437-2615.

# VALLEY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COOP

## venture



*Blunt  
Bowdle  
Britton  
Cresbard  
Eureka  
Faulkton  
Gettysburg  
Glenham  
Harrold*

*Herreid  
Highmore  
Hitchcock  
Hosmer  
Hoven  
Ipswich  
Langford  
Lebanon  
Leola*

*Long Lake  
Mound City  
Onaka  
Onida  
Orient-Polo  
Pierpont  
Pollock  
Ree Heights  
Roscoe*

*Rosholt  
Roslyn  
Selby  
Seneca  
Sisseton  
Tolstoy  
Tulare  
Wessington  
Wess. Springs*

*Also Includes: Huron, Pierre, Aberdeen & Other Surrounding Areas*

Connecting Local Consumers  
with Local Businesses...

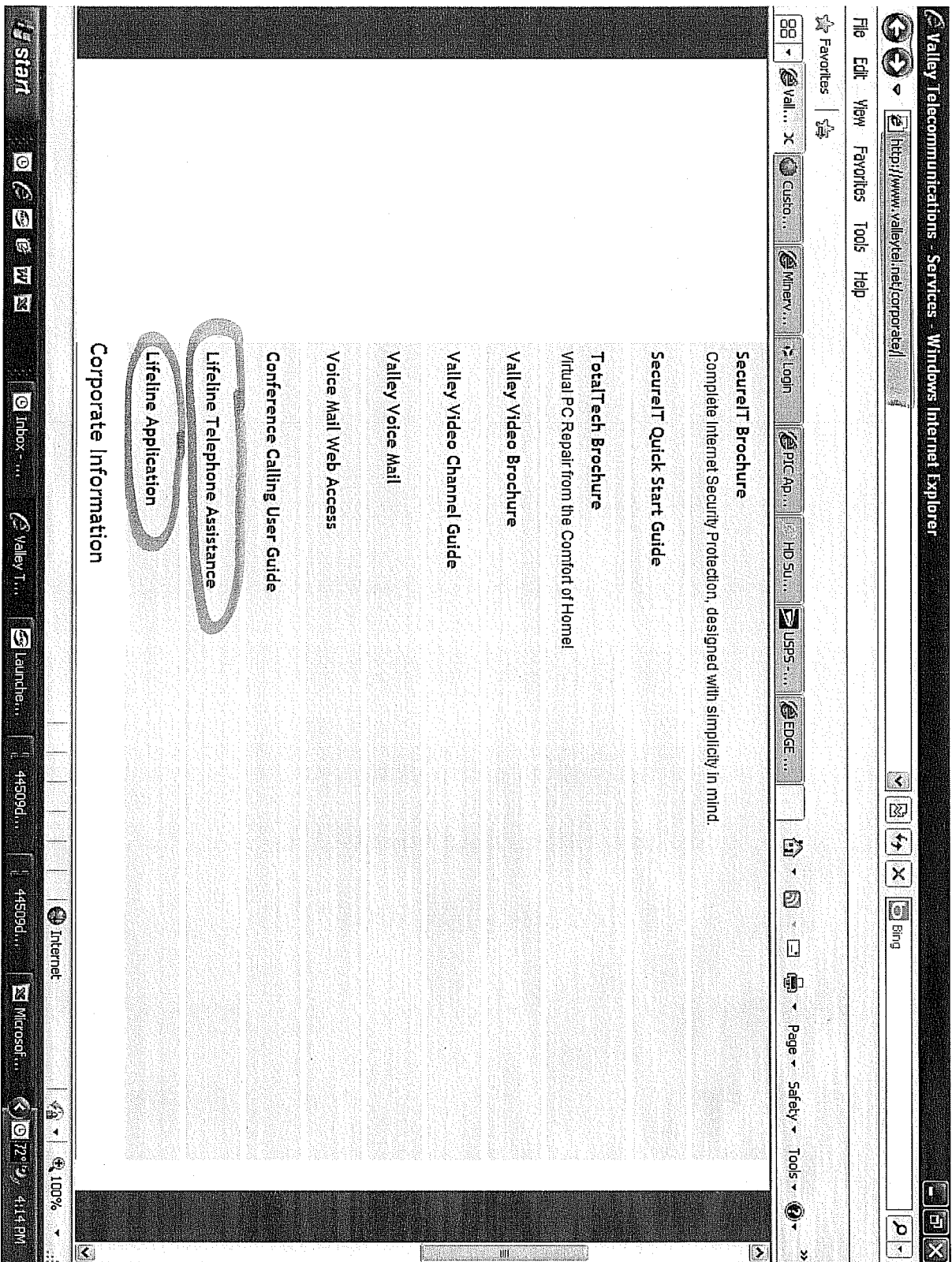
 [localsolution.com](http://localsolution.com)

2010-2011

THE PHONE BOOK

## **VALLEY'S WEBSITE**

Valley's website



## **USAC WEBSITE**





## Telephone Assistance Programs for Low Income Households

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Selected state:

South Dakota

Please select your local phone company from the list below.

(Not all phone companies are listed. Please call your local phone company for more information if they are not listed here.)

Valley Telecommunications Coop A

Go

## Lifeline and Link Up Information for Valley Telecommunications Coop Assn Customers in South Dakota

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### Landline or Wireless Services

**Lifeline** is a government program that offers qualified low income households a discount on their monthly local telephone bill. Each state has its own guidelines to qualify. The application and qualification process differs by state and sometimes by individual phone company.

- **How much can I save?**

You will save up to \$8.25 on your basic monthly bill. These benefits apply to your local telephone service charges that you purchase as flat rate service. These benefits will also cover your subscriber line charge.

- **How do I know if I am eligible?**

Program based eligibility:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance / Section 8
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- National School Lunch (free program only)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Additional eligibility criteria may apply to residents of federally recognized tribal lands

Income based eligibility:

- Total household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- **Are there any restrictions?**

Lifeline can only be used for the primary telephone line in a household. You may purchase additional services available to a non-Lifeline customer. You must establish phone service prior to applying for the Lifeline discount. The name on the phone bill must match the name of the household member participating on the eligible program with the exception of the National School Lunch free Program.

- **How do I apply?**

To apply for Lifeline call Valley Telco in Herreid SD directly at 605-437-2615. You may find more information about Lifeline and other telephone services available from Valley Telecommunications Coop Assn at <http://www.valleytel.net>. An application can be obtained via phone, or from Valley Telco in Herreid SD.

- **What proof of eligibility do I need to provide?**

You will be asked for proof of your eligibility by submitting a form signed under penalty of perjury that you receive benefits from or a copy of any dated document which verifies your participation in one of the qualifying programs listed above. Proof of total household income may be required for income based qualification. Your Lifeline benefits will take effect when proof of eligibility is received.

- **How do I continue to receive Lifeline benefits?**

Eligibility is reviewed periodically. Your benefits will be discontinued when you no longer meet the eligibility requirements or when proof of eligibility is not received. Customers who are no longer eligible for Lifeline benefits must notify their service provider.

- **Other Useful information**

There are other options that can help you save money, including free toll blocking, waived deposit with toll blocking and voluntary limit on long distance calling (toll control).

**Link Up** helps households reduce the cost of initiating telephone service. This program pays some of the cost of connecting local telephone service to your home or activating wireless phone service. However, Link Up does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home.

- **How much will I save?**

Link Up will pay 50% of your installation charges for total discount of \$5.00-21.50. (Maximum benefit \$30.00) An additional discount may apply to residents of federally recognized tribal lands.

- **How do I know if I am eligible?**

If you qualify for Lifeline, you also qualify for Link Up.

- **Are there any restrictions?**

Link Up can only be used for the charges for activating a primary telephone line or moving existing service to a new address. Charges related to wiring and telephone jacks within your home and wireless handsets are not eligible for the Link Up discount.

- **How do I apply?**

To apply for Link Up you will follow the same application process as Lifeline and the same proof of eligibility as Lifeline.

**Being a Lifeline or Link Up customer does not protect you from being disconnected if you fail to pay your telephone bill.**

**Lifeline and Link Up discounts cannot be applied to an outstanding balance owed to your phone company.**

**Lifeline can only be applied to one wireless OR wireline telephone per household.**

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