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

Company:	Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Co. d/b/a ITC					
Address:	PO Box 920 312 4 <sup>th</sup> St W Clear Lake, SD 57226					
Telephone nu	mber: 605-874-2181					
Company con	tact: Jim Canaan					
Study Area Co	ode: 391679					
Lifeline/Link U	p Advertising/Outreach Activities:					
X 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.)					
X	Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.					
	Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.					
<u>X</u>	Company's information posted on USAC website.					
Other (describe):						
*Required						

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Stockholm/Strandburg Telephone Company d/b/a ITC offers local exchange telecommunications service to all consumers in its service area.

Single Party Residence Service – South Shore \$15.00/month
Single Party Residence Service – South Shore – Rural \$17.60/month
Single Party Business Service – South Shore \$29.80/month
Single Party Business Service – South Shore – Rural \$32.80/month

This service provides subscribing customers with:

- -Voice grade access to the public switched network
- -Single party service
- -Dual tone multi-frequency signaling
- -Flat rated local exchange service free of per minute charges
- -Access to 911 emergency services
- -Access to operator services
- -Access to interexchange (long distance) service
- -Access to directory assistance
- -Toll blocking/Toll limitation

Low-Income Assistance Programs are available for qualifying customers. These programs provide for connection and monthly service discounts on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), the National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low Income Housing Energy Assistance, or Federal Public Housing Assistance. Subscribers whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines also qualify for this assistance. Additional Low Income Assistance is available to those qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. The Enhanced Low Income Programs available to consumers living on Tribal Lands provide for additional telephone services discounts, and, in addition to the previously cited programs, participation in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program qualifies them for this support.

Questions regarding any of the above services should be directed to ITC at 1-800-417-8667.

(CPE) in the interval between the first and second ring. The calling name/number will remain for the duration of the call and can be viewed from the display on the

#### How to use:

- 1. When you receive a call, wait until your telephone completes the first ringing signal.
- 2. The telephone number calling you--and the name associated with that number in telephone company records—will automatically appear on your display screen.
- 3. If you choose to answer the call, the name and number will remain on the screen until you or the caller hangs up.

#### Note:

- · The "switchhook" is the round, flat, or square button you push to hang up the phone.
- · The CLASS features listed presently do not function on a long-distance call.
- The Calling Name and Number Delivery or Calling Number Delivery requires subscription to these services and the purchase or lease of a display telephone and/or an add on display unit.

tion. If your number is "blocked," the called party's display will show a "PRIVATE" message.

The PER LINE BLOCKING option suppresses your directory number on all calls you make unless you dial an unblocking code before making any individual call.

#### DISTINCTIVE RINGING Call 611



### LIFELINE AND LINK-UP

Lifeline and Link-Up Service support provides 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. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$8.25 per month in discounts. Eligible residents of tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Link-Up 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, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

Eligibility of Lifeline and Link-Up support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline and Link-Up if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. To be eligible for these programs the telephone service must be in the applicant's name. An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- · 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
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- · Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

If you fall into one of these examples, contact 800-417-8667.

13	Harrisburg/Lea		Sioux Falls	445	Colton	568	Belle Fourche	717	Spearfish	859
14*	Harrisburg/Tea	331		446	Onaka		Belle Fourche	718	Rapid City	860*
15	Sioux Falls	332	Sioux Falls	447	Britton	571	Deadwood		Rapid City	861*
16	Aberdeen North Sioux City	333		449	Emery		Flandreau	720	Sturgis	862 Biç
20.	Pierre		Sioux Falls	450*	Redfield		Hill City	721	Rapid City	863*
21	Sioux Falls	000	Sioux Falls	451	Wakonda	575	Sioux Falls	722	Spearfish	864*
22*	Pierre	337	Platte	452	Wood	576	South Ladd	723	Belle Fourche	865
23	Pierre	338	Sioux Falls	454*	Martin	577	Long Lake	724	Armour	867
24	Pierre	339	Sioux Falls	455	Kyle	578	Deadwood	725	Aberdeen	867
25	Aberdeen	340	Deadwood	456	Newell	579*	Howard	726	Academy	869
26	Aberdeen	341	Rapid City	457	Creighton	580*	Lead	727	Rapid City	870*
27	Ethan		Rapid City	458	Wessington	581	Vermillion	728	Sioux Falls Bridgewater	871'
28"	Aberdeen	343	Rapid City	459	Ardmore	582	Brandon Scotland	730	Chamberlain	873
29	Aberdeen	344	Belvidere	460"	Redfield Huron	584	Lead	731	Sioux Falls	874
30°	Mobridge	345	Webster			585*	North Sioux City	732	Stickney	875
31"	Sioux Falls	346	South Ellendale	462	Long Valley Tabor	586	Nunda	733	La Plant	876
32	North Sioux City	347	Sturgis	463	Tyndail	587	North Bristow	734	Chamberlain	877
33*			Rapid City West Jasper	11/2/11 11	Crooks	588	Webster	735	South Forman	878
34		350*	Huron	466	Isabel	589	Tyndall	737	Rapid City	879
	North Sioux City Mount Vernon	351'	Sioux Falls		Milbank	590*	Webster	738	Veblen	880*
		352	Huron	468	Redfield	591".	Lead	739	Faith	881*
37'		353	Huron		Lake Andes	592*	Brookings	741	Vermillion	882
39	Alexandria		Huron	470	Britton	593	Rapid City	742	Sisseton	883
10.	Salem				Salem	594	Garretson		Harrisburg/Tea	884
41	Sioux Falls	356	Elk Point	472	Redfield		Sioux Falls	745	Hot Springs	885
	North Sioux City	357		473	Reliance	596.	Tulare	747	Rosebud	886
	New Holland		South Forbes	474	North Larchwood	598.	Faulkton	748	Maurine	887
44	Bison		Sioux Falls		Redfield		Cavour	749	East New Castle	889
45	Fort Thompson	360*	Sioux Falls		Fort Thompson	609.	Pierre	750"	Lennox	890,
46	Spencer	361	Sioux Falls	478*.	Highmore	610.	Sioux Falls	751	Beresford	892
47	Center	362	Sioux Falls	479	West Hendricks	620 .	Lake Preston	753		893
48	Letcher	363	Humboldt		Madison	622.	Aberdeen	754	New UnderwoodSouth Shore	894
49	White Lake	364	Lesterville	481".	Lake Andes		Revillo Vermillion	750	Valley Springs	895
51"	Sioux Falls	365	Dupree	482	Old Hamrmon		Vermillion Bryant/Willow Lake		Florence	897
252	Aberdeen	366*	Sioux Falls	483			Aberdeen		Sioux Falls	920*
253	Alsen		Sioux Falls		Rapid City	627	Volga	760	Yankton	923
254	Sioux Falls		Harrisburg/Tea	465	Winfred	628	Bryant/Willow Lake		Elk Point	924*
255	Hermosa	369	Springfield Sioux Falls	486	Lake Andes				Glenham	925
256	Madison Nisland		Sioux Falls	488	Kadoka	630	Mitchell	763	Beresford	928
257		371			Chester	631	Deadwood	764	Canton	929*
258	Onida White River	372	Sioux Falls		Sturgis	633*	Flandreau	765	Gettysburg	932
259 260	vvnite Hiver	374	Lemmon	491	Lake Andes		Doland	766	Viborg	933*
261*	Sioux Falls		Buffalo		Bristol	636	Madison	767	Harrisburg/Tea	934
262	Aberdeen		Sioux Falls		Langford	637	New Effington	768	Lebanon	935
263	Irene	377	Aberdeen	494	Pierre	638.	Vermillion	769*.	Gettysburg	938
264	Onida	378	North Valentine	495	Forestburg	639	Spearfish	770".	Mitchell	939
265*		379	South Nelvik	496	Sioux Falls		Sioux Falls		Gettysburg	940*
266		380*	Aberdeen	497	Wolsey	641	Lead		Howard	942
267	Wakonda		Rapid City		Harrisburg/Tea	642	Spearfish	773	Pierre Burke	943
268*.	Sisseton	382	Conde		Sturgis	644	Spearfish	775	Pierre	944
269	Whitewood	383	South Guelph	500	Yankton	645	Spearfish	770	Kimball	945
270".	Madison	384	Wagner		Parkston	647 648	Lennox Marion	779	Delmont	946
271	Sioux Falls	385	Rapid City	509 515*	Sioux Falls Wall	649	Selby		North Sioux City	947
272	Gary	386	Quinn	516*		651	Brookings	782	Sioux Falls	948
273	McIntosh		Rapid City		Custer	652		783	Hayti	949*
2/4	Sioux Falls	300	Rapid City	520	Watertown	653	Yankton	784	Bradley	951
275	Sioux Falls Aberdeen	300.	Rapid CityRapid City	521	Sioux Falls	654	Bonesteel	785	Lake Norden	955
278	South Scranton	391	Rapid City		Canova	655	Yankten	786	Rapid City	956*
279	Wall	392	Orient	524.	Morristown	656	Mitchell	787	Rapid City	957
280*.	Pierre	393	Rapid City	526.	Wall Lake	658	Vermillion	788	Meadow	962
281*	Bowdle	394	Rapid City	527.	Artesian	659	Vermillion	791	Rapid City	964
282*.	Bowdle	395	Ferney	528	Hartford	660		793	Castlewood	965
283	Hosmer	396	Columbia	529.	Baltic	661	Yankton		Toronto	967
284	Eureka	397	Groton	530	Colman	662 664	Edgemont	795 . 796	Goodwin Woonsocket	969
285	Bowdle		Summit	532 .	Clark			795	Camp Crook	973
286	Avon	399	Rapid City		South Lidgerwood	665 666	Yankton Keystone	798.	Wicksville	977
287	Roscoe		Sioux Falls		Colman	668	Yankton	818	Watertown	978
288	North Gordon	407*	Martin	535	Oelrichs Rosholt	669		822.	North Cody	983
289 .	South Ashley	408	Harrisburg/Tea	538	Dupree	670			McLaughlin	984
290	Aberdeen		Huron Sioux Falls		.Wessington Springs	671	Vermillion	825.		985
291	Madison Mitchell	413	Sioux FallsRapid City		North Sioux City	672	Vermillion	826.	Śinai	987
292 . 293 .	Gann Valley	415	Salem	541		673			Mission	988
293.	Gann valley		North Sioux City		Elkton		Vermillion	830*	Gregory	990
294 .	Pierre	423	Sturgis		Crooks		Stockholm		Gregory	993
295	Canistota	424	Oral	544	Milesville	677	Vermillion	832.	Astoria	994
297	Parker		Salem	545*	Rapid City		West Marietta		Buffalo Gap	995
298.	Andover		lpswich	546	lroquois	680			North Naper	996
299.	Mitchell	427	Madison	547	West Hawarden	682			Gregory	997
300	Beresford	428	Dell Rapids	548	Baltic		Vivian	836 .	Canton Kadoka	999*
301.	Pierre	429	North Crookston	549	Spearfish		Colman	837 .		Denotes
	Redfield	430°.	Rapid City		Mitchell		Martin South Venturia	940	Sioux Falls Winner	Cellular
306.	Sioux Falls	431".	Rapid City	552	Centerville	687	South Venturia	040	٧٧١١١١	Jenulai

poverty guidelines.

## Wire Mantenance Plans

No one likes surprises, especially when they affect your wallet. No one likes to have things go wrong either, but sometimes they do. One of the best ways to avoid surprise expenses with your services at ITC is to purchase a maintenance plan.

One common question is, "At what point is the problem mine?" A "demarcation point." This is the location where ITC's buried cable meets and connects to the wiring that brings your telephone, high-speed Internet (DSL), and digital TV service to the equipment in your home. This demarcation point is located in a NID (Network Interface Device) or box located on the outside of your house. Any problem in the wiring from that box into your home is your responsibility.

If you should have a problem, one of the first things you can do is make sure the power is on and the device is plugged into a working outlet. If the problem still exists, the next thing you should do is call one of ITC's

Help Desk numbers. We have staff ready to assist you and many times, the problem can be resolved over the phone. Keep the following help desk numbers handy: Phone: 1-800-395-4656, Internet: 1-866-203-6193.

The bottom line is, we will do our best to provide you with reliable service. In case the "unexpected" happens, we will try to get it repaired as soon as possible and to help reduce your repair costs, we offer you these maintenance plan options so you can protect yourself.

Telephone Wire Maintenance Plan \$1.50 per month

High-Speed Internet
Wire Maintenance Plan
\$1.50 per month



Current Occupant or:

PRESORTED

STANDARD

CLEAR LAKE, SD

CLEAR LAKE, SD

401 South Main Street Milbank, SD 57252



# **lifeine and link-up Program**

ITC offers assistance for telephone service to low income customers. The "Lifeline" and "Link-up" programs were established to address concerns about affordability of telephone service and to provide assistance for low income citizens.

The Link-up program allows eligible subscribers to receive a reduced connection charge for their basic home telephone service. This government program offers 50% of the activation charges with the maximum benefit of \$30.00. Link-up does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home.

Lifeline is a government program that provides monthly bill discounts to low income members who qualify. This program allows for a monthly credit on the basic service portion of the participant's phone bill. Lifeline can only be used for the main telephone line in a household and the name on the phone bill must match the name of the participant. You are eligible for Lifeline if you participate in any of the following programs: Medicaid, Food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance.

Each state has its own guidelines to qualify. There is also additional Lifeline and Link-up assistance to qualifying individuals living on Tribal Lands. If you are interested in finding out more about the Lifeline and Link-up programs please contact ITC at 1-800-417-8667.

#### Remit Top Portion of Bill with Payment

#### Important Dates

Bills are mailed on the last working day of the month, and payment is due on the 19th of the next month, unless otherwise indicated on the "Due Date" portion of your statement. Prompt payment is required. NO PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT WILL BE GRANTED.

May 31 Bills mailed from	Stockholm-Strandburg Telephone Company d/b/a ITC
June 20	Payment Due
June 20	Final Notices Mailed
July 7	Disconnect Day for 623,676,756



# South Dakota Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Application (Please Print or Type)

Last name:	First:Middle Initial_		dle Initial			
Billing Address:	2	City:		State:	Zip:	
Residential Address	::	City:		State:	Zip:	
Social Security Nun	nber:	Telepho	ne Number:		(if existing service)	
Telephone number	where you can b	e reached or receiv	e messages			
I am applying for: Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)						
	-	Link-Up (telepho	one connection	charge discount)		
		Toll Limitation S	Service (free tol	l blocking or toll c	control)	
Assistance)	Food Stam Supplement Federal Pu Low-Incon Temporar National S	ntal Security Incomulation Housing Assistance Home Energy Assistance for No School Lunch (NS)	ne (SSI) stance (Section Assistance eedy Families (' L) free lunch pr	8) TANF) program ogram	g Supplemental  Poverty Guidelines	
	2011	Health and Human	Services Povert	y Guidelines		
Number in Residence 1 2 3 4 For each add Source: Federa	133% Guideline (Annual) \$14,484 \$19,564 \$24,645 \$29,726 ditional person afte	133% Guideline (Monthly) \$1,207 \$1,630 \$2,054 \$2,477 r 8, add \$3,820 to the	Number In Residence 5 6 7 8 annual guideline.	133% Guideline (Annual) \$34,806 \$39,887 \$44,967 \$50,048 to 48 contiguous states on	133% Guideline (Monthly) \$2,901 \$3,324 \$3,747 \$4,171	
I agree to notify the	telephone comp	oany when I no lon	ger qualify for	this program based	d on the above criteria.	
	this application a	and understand tha	t I must meet at	least one of the al	N IS TRUE. I have read bove qualifications to all telephone line.	
Signature			Date			
		"Return filled out	form to ITC Te	elecom"		

P.O. Box 920 Clear Lake, SD 57226-0920

#### Dear Customer:

You currently participate in Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative's Lifeline assistance program. Federal Communications Commission guidelines require telephone companies like ours to annually verify a sample of lifeline customers' continued eligibility.

Lifeline assistance is available to participants in one or more of the following programs: Medicaid: Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance; Low Income Housing Energy Assistance; Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF); or the National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program. Individuals whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are also eligible for Lifeline assistance. If you are still eligible for Lifeline assistance, please complete the enclosed application and provide supporting documentation (such as a copy of your Medicaid card) to us by **June 16**<sup>th</sup>.

Documentation of income eligibility includes a customer's prior 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: income is all income actually received by <u>all</u> 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 qualify based on household income, please come to our office with the required documentation. Our offices are located at: 312 4<sup>th</sup> St W in Clear Lake; 1022 Main Ave S in Brookings; 107 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW in Clark; 14 E 7<sup>th</sup> Ave in Webster and 401 S Main St in Milbank. All other applicants recertifying are welcome to drop the application and documentation off at one of our offices, or you may mail them back to us in the enclosed return envelope.

Please feel free to call me at 1-800-395-4656 with any questions you may have regarding the application or the Lifeline/Link Up programs.

Sincerely,	
Julie Kasten	

**Enclosures** 



#### Telephone Assistance Programs for Low Income Households

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.)

ITC Telecom (Stockholm-Strandbur Go

## Lifeline and Link Up Information for ITC Telecom (Stockholm-Strandburg) Customers in

#### Landline Service

South Dakota

**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 <u>subscriber line charge</u>.

#### 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 ITC Telecom directly at 605-676-6000 or stop by your nearest certified <a href="ITC Telecom">ITC Telecom</a> (Stockholm-Strandburg) retail store. You may find more information about Lifeline and other telephone services available from ITC Telecom (Stockholm-Strandburg) at <a href="http://www.itc-web.com">http://www.itc-web.com</a>. An application can be obtained via phone, or from our office at Milbank, or at a certified <a href="ITC Telecom">ITC Telecom</a> (Stockholm-Strandburg) retail store.

#### · 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 \$30.00. (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?

You must provide proof of eligibility before telephone service can be activated. 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 <u>OR</u> wireline telephone per household.

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