

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2013**

Company: Valley Telecommunications

Address: PO Box 7

102 main st. S.

Herreid, SD 57632-0007

Telephone number: (605) 437-2615

Company contact: Lisa Ochsner

Study Area Code: 391685

Lifeline/Tribal 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/ Tribal Link Up.\* (See attached letter.)

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

Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. <http://www.valleytel.net>

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Required

ADVERTISE IN  
MEDIA OF GENERAL DISTRIBUTION

# 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

A printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in said newspaper for...4 successive weeks upon the following dates, to wit:

..... 12/6 , 2012 ..... , 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 \$ 70<sup>30</sup>

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

6<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. , 2012

Gloria J. Soule

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

## 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

Eligible Lifeline telephony services provide voice grade access to the public switched telephone network or its functional equivalent; minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users; access to emergency 911 and enhanced 911 service to the extent the local government is an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation at no charge to qualifying low-income consumers.

Lifeline telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income subscribers, providing the consumer is not already receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier (including wireless providers). This program is provided for monthly service discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: participate in Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (i/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. Valley Telecommunications Cooperative's voice telephone service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. If an applying consumer is currently receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier (including a wireless provider), they will need to discontinue their benefits with the alternate carrier prior to receiving benefits from Valley Telecommunications.

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**

**The Northwest Blade**

P. O. Box 797; Eureka, SD 57437

605-284-2631

**STATE OF South Dakota; COUNTY OF McPherson**

I, Cindy Schumacher, 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 Northwest 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

12-6-12 Federal Lifeline Notice  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF THE CORPORATION/GOVERNMENT OFFICE: Valley

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

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: Cindy Schumacher

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME ON THE

21 DAY OF Dec, 20 12.

NOTARY SIGNATURE: Barry Lapp

... blessed with five children: Jer-  
ald, Margaret, James, Carmin  
and Mark. In 1965, they moved  
to Eureka. Lillian was secretary  
for Zion Lutheran Church for ten  
years. She also was a distributor  
for Shaklee Products for about 25  
years.

... blessed with five children: Jer-  
ald, Margaret, James, Carmin  
and Mark. In 1965, they moved  
to Eureka. Lillian was secretary  
for Zion Lutheran Church for ten  
years. She also was a distributor  
for Shaklee Products for about 25  
years.

## Federal Lifeline Notice

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic and enhanced telecommunica-  
tions 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

Eligible Lifeline telephony services provide voice grade access to the public switched  
telephone network or its functional equivalent; minutes of use for local service provid-  
ed at no additional charge to end users; access to emergency 911 and enhanced 911  
service to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has imple-  
mented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation at no charge to qualifying low-  
income consumers.

Lifeline telephone assistance programs are available for qualifying low-income sub-  
scribers, providing the consumer is not already receiving Lifeline benefits from an alter-  
nate carrier (including wireless providers). This program is provided for monthly serv-  
ice discounts on telephone services. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in  
Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (aka  
the Food Stamp 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. Valley Telecommunications Cooperative's voice  
telephone service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll  
in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating  
eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance pro-  
grams or through income-based means. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit  
per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. Lifeline is a government  
benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain  
the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.  
If an applying consumer is currently receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier  
(including a wireless provider), they will need to discontinue their benefits with the  
alternate carrier prior to receiving benefits from Valley Telecommunications.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Valley  
Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommuni-  
cations services, please call Valley Telecommunications's business office at (805) 437-  
2615.



PO Box 7 - 182 Main St  
Herreid SD 57632-0007  
www.valleytel.net

- SUNDAY LOCAL**
- ANTI**
- ★ Old School map
  - ★ Typewriter
  - ★ School desk
  - ★ Coffee grinder
  - ★ Neck Yoke
  - ★ 1948 American Fly Electric train
  - ★ Carmin books & poem books
  - ★ US Calvary badge

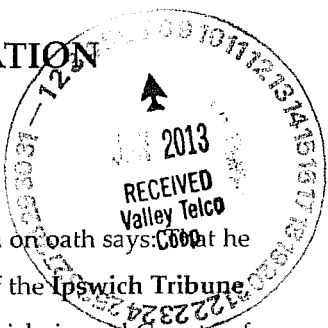


- ★ Cast iron door stop
- ★ Brass bull & Horse door knocker
- ★ 1889 Metal 7-1/2 in. jar
- ★ 1871 Dresser Beer
- ★ Pig cookie jar
- ★ Guitar (Johnny Fox)
- ★ Tobacco tin
- ★ Barb-wire pieces
- ★ Autographed Peoria Baseballs
- ★ 1920 Marble Electric Ketcher
- ★ Bicycle horn
- ★ Serving trays (Cow)
- ★ Disney Land
- ★ Child's lunch boxes
- ★ Nylon fire engine
- ★ Rattles
- ★ Advertising items
- ★ Sky searcher glass
- ★ Cap 2-1/2 in. dia.
- ★ JD dump wagon
- ★ Colored magnets
- ★ Thumb collection
- ★ 1958 Remax car
- ★ Truck
- ★ Tapestries
- ★ Child's rocking chair



PRINTED BY THE HERREID PRESS

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION



State of South Dakota )
) SS
County of Edmunds )

D.E. Gibson of said county, being, first duly sworn on oath says: That he is the publisher or an employee of the publisher of the Ipswich Tribune, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Ipswich, in said County of Edmunds, and State of South Dakota; that he has full and personal knowledge of the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper as defined in SDCL 17-2-2.1 through 17-2-2.4 inclusive; that said newspaper has been published within the said County of Edmunds and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice, and that the advertisement headed

FEDERAL LIFELINE NOTICE

a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, and which is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper for one successive issues.

The First publication being made on the 5 day of Dec., 2012

The Second publication being made on the day of , 20....

The Third publication being made on the day of , 20....

The Fourth publication being made on the day of , 20....

The Fifth publication being made on the day of , 20....

That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice insures to the sole benefit of the publisher; that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever; that the fees charged for the publication thereof are:

Thirty Dollars and
eighty cents (\$30.80)

Signed: [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of Dec., 2012

[Signature: Jena M Gibson]

Notary Public - Edmunds County, South Dakota

My commission expires February 26, 2013

Federal Lifeline

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic and other telecommunications services within its service area. Basic Services are of

Single Party Residence Service \$15.5
Single Party Business Service \$15.5

Eligible Lifeline telephony services provide voice grade access to the telephone network or its functional equivalent; minutes of service provided at no additional charge to end users; access to emergency service to the extent the local government is an eligible carrier; enhanced 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation at the expense of income consumers.

Lifeline telephone assistance programs are available for eligible subscribers, providing the consumer is not already receiving Lifeline service from a telephone carrier (including wireless providers). This program is available at no additional charge to end users; access to emergency service to the extent the local government is an eligible carrier; enhanced 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation at the expense of income consumers. Eligible Lifeline telephony services provide voice grade access to the telephone network or its functional equivalent; minutes of service provided at no additional charge to end users; access to emergency service to the extent the local government is an eligible carrier; enhanced 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation at the expense of income consumers.

The basic services described above are offered to eligible consumers within Valley Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding these services, please call Valley Telecommunications at 2615.



PO Box
Herreid
www

ommunica-  
wing rates:

ic switched  
vice provid-  
anced 911  
has imple-  
alifying low-

come sub-  
m an after-  
nthly serv-  
rticipate in  
NAP) (W/a  
es (TANF)  
m; receive  
Assistance;  
e that is at  
charge and  
ive's voice  
many enroll  
onstrating  
stance pro-  
one benefit  
overnment  
er to obtain  
e program.  
mate carri-  
its with the

in Valley  
ecommuni-  
(605) 437-

St  
007

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota )
) SS
County of Edmunds )

D.E. Gibson of said county, being, first duly sworn on oath says: That he is the publisher or an employee of the publisher of the Roscoe-Hosmer Independent, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Ipswich, in said County of Edmunds, and State of South Dakota; that he has full and personal knowledge of the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper as defined in SDCL 17-2-2.1 through 17-2-2.4 inclusive; that said newspaper has been published within the said County of Edmunds and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice, and that the advertisement headed

FEDERAL LIFELINE NOTICE

a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, and which is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper for one successive issues.

The First publication being made on the 5 day of Dec., 2012

The Second publication being made on the day of , 20....

The Third publication being made on the day of , 20....

The Fourth publication being made on the day of , 20....

The Fifth publication being made on the day of , 20....

That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice insures to the sole benefit of the publisher; that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever; that the fees charged for the publication thereof are:

Thirty Dollars and
eighty cents (\$30.80)

Signed: [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of Dec., 2012

[Signature]

Notary Public - Edmunds County, South Dakota

My commission expires February 26, 2013

Federal Lifeline

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative provides basic telecommunications services within its service area. Basic Services are:

Single Party Residence Service \$15.
Single Party Business Service \$15.

Eligible Lifeline telephony services provide voice grade a telephone network or its functional equivalent; minutes of service at no additional charge to end users; access to emergency service to the extent the local government is an eligible carrier; 911 or enhanced 911 systems; and toll limitation a income consumers.

Lifeline telephone assistance programs are available for subscribers, providing the consumer is not already receiving Lifeline service from a carrier (including wireless providers). This program includes discounts on telephone service. To qualify, a subscriber must: be on Medicaid; participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (the Food Stamps Program); participate in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; participate in the National School Lunch (NSL) program; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); receive Federal Supplemental Security Income (FSSI); receive Federal Housing Assistance; or have an income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Telephone service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may participate in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation of eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying programs or through income-based means. The Lifeline program is available per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. If a consumer is currently receiving Lifeline benefits from an alternate carrier prior to receiving benefits from Valley Telecommunications, the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be terminated. If an applying consumer is currently receiving Lifeline benefits from another carrier (including a wireless provider), they will need to discontinue service with that carrier prior to receiving benefits from Valley Telecommunications.

The basic services described above are offered to consumers within Valley Telecommunications's service area. If you have any questions regarding Lifeline services, please call Valley Telecommunications at 2615.



PO Box
Herreid
www.



telecommunica-  
tion rates:

Public switched  
service provided  
enhanced 911  
service has imple-  
menting low-

Income sub-  
sidies from an alter-  
nate monthly serv-  
ice participate in  
(SNAP) (WIC)  
families (TANF)  
program; receive  
Assistance;  
service that is at  
no charge and  
protective voice  
service many enroll  
demonstrating  
assistance pro-  
gram one benefit  
government  
order to obtain  
the program.  
alternate carri-  
er benefits with the  
service.

Service in Valley  
telecommuni-  
cation (805) 437-

in St  
0007  
at

Insert Text

Insert Picture

Insert Rectangle

Insert Ellipse

Insert Flash

Insert VideoFrame

Select Video Clip

Credit Roll

MS PowerPoint

Page Properties

Project Properties

Exit Page

Herreid CATV.avp : Page 15

## Region T1

### The "Lifeline" Telephone Assistance Plan is available to Valley Customers.

You may qualify for a discount of \$9.25 on your telephone bill if you participate in any of the following programs, or meet income guidelines...

This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. The customer can only receive one Lifeline subsidy.

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



Call Valley's Business Office at 437-2615 for details.

## Region B2

## LETTER TO EXISTING AND NEW CUSTOMERS

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 assistance under any of the programs listed above, please complete the enclosed application.

If you qualify for Lifeline 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 at 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. This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. Each customer can only receive one Lifeline subsidy.



# 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 \$2.75. 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.

**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

Telephone Services



(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 if your income is at, or below, 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Size of Family Unit	2013 Requirements
1	\$15,512
2	\$20,939
3	\$26,366
4	\$31,793
5	\$37,220
6	\$42,647
7	\$48,074
8	\$53,501
For each additional person add:	\$ 5,427

## Income Certification

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criterion, and wish to apply for Lifeline 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.*

new customer booklet

Telephone Services



### 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 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 annual recertification.

### 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.

Telephone Services

## Lifeline 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

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 assistance on my primary residential telephone line. I certify that neither I, nor anyone else in my household, is currently receiving Lifeline program benefits for wireless or traditional telephone service and I understand the program rules state that no qualifying consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 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 if your income is at, or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Size of Family Unit	2013 Req.
1	\$15,512
2	\$20,939
3	\$26,366
4	\$31,793
5	\$37,220
6	\$42,647
7	\$48,074
8	\$53,501
For Each Additional Person, Add	\$ 5,427

## 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.

## LIFELINE AND LINK-UP

## TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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 \$2.75. 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.

## INCOME CERTIFICATION

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criteria, and wish to apply for Lifeline 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.*

**\*\*\*This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. Each customer can only receive one subsidy.\*\***

## 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.



## COMPANY DIRECTORY

## 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 the federal telephone assistance program that was 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 of \$9.25\*. 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.

\* May be subject to change by the FCC.

\* This benefit can only be received on either wireless or landline telephone service. Each customer can receive only one subsidy.

## 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 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 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.

\* May be subject to annual verification procedures.

## 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 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.

COMPANY'S WEBSITE



Se

[Home](#) | [Services](#) | [About Us](#) | [E-Bill](#) | [Webmail](#) | [Phone Portal](#)  
 General Support Information |

Home / About Us / Forms and Policies

## SUPPORT

General Support Information

## Forms and Policies



### Forms

- [Application for Service – Business](#)
- [Application for Service – Residential](#)
- [Lifeline Application](#)
- [Deny Origination Form](#)
- [Lifeline Application](#)
- [Registration for Non-Persons 2012](#)
- [Automatic Payment Plan Authorization Form](#)
- [Total Maintenance Plans](#)
- [Donation/Sponsorship Application](#)

### Policies

- [Telephone Collection Policy \(Board Policy No. 108\)](#)
- [Video, Internet, and Wireless Collection Policy \(Board Policy No. 108-A\)](#)
- [Account/Service Activation Policy \(Board Policy No. 108-B\)](#)
- [Network Management Practices Policy Disclosure](#)
- [2013 HAC Compatibility for Wireless Devices](#)

Valley is committed to providing quality services that exceed our customers' expectations with our services, and our customer service. We will provide a company atmosphere that promotes continued growth and prosperity of our employees, company and community.

To learn more [Click Here](#)

### Stay connected with us

our activities  
[On Facebook](#)

our latest tweets  
[On Twitter](#)

our latest videos  
[On YouTube](#)

### Want to say hello?

Call:  
**605.437.2615**

Write:  
 P.O. Box 7, 102 Main St. S  
 Herreid, SD 57632

View Contact Page:

[Click Here](#)

# APPLICATION FORM

# Lifeline Assistance Certification Form

(Please Print or Type)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

(Do not use a P.O. Box address.)

Is your residential address a permanent address? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

(If different from residential address.)

Social Security Number (last four digits): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (if existing service)

Telephone number where you can be reached or receive messages: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently receiving Lifeline assistance through any other telephone provider? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

I am certifying eligibility for : \_\_\_\_\_ Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)

I, one or more of my dependents or my household currently participate in one or more of the following programs:

(Check all that apply.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Low-Income Energy Home Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- \_\_\_\_\_ National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ My household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The number of individuals in my household is: \_\_\_\_\_.

*If not currently participating in one or more of the programs listed above, I qualify for Lifeline because my household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).*

2012 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,080	5	\$36,464
2	\$20,426	6	\$41,810
3	\$25,772	7	\$47,156
4	\$31,118	8	\$52,502

For each additional person after 8, add \$5,346 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 77 No. 17, January 26, 2012, pp. 4034-4035

\*\*\*\*Please note that there is more information needed on the back of this page.\*\*\*\*

## Important Information

Lifeline is a federal government assistance benefit and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program.

Only one Lifeline service is available per household. A household is defined, for the purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. A household may include related and unrelated persons. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

### **I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:**

- (1) I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in 47 C.F.R. § 54.409;
- (2) I will notify the carrier within 30 days if, for any reason, I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, I am receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit;
- (3) If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the telephone company within 30 days;
- (4) If I provided a temporary residential address to the telephone company, I will meet requirement to verify my temporary residential address every 90 days;
- (5) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;
- (6) The individual named on the documentation provided previously to demonstrate program-based eligibility, if not me, is part of my household.
- (7) I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.405(e)(4);
- (8) I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (9) The information contained in this Re-Certification Form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

---

Signature

---

Date

*Return this completed Re-Certification form to Valley Telecommunications. The company will contact you if any additional information is needed to prove your continued eligibility.*

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 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 Assistance under the income based criteria. I certify that neither I, nor anyone else in my household, is currently receiving Lifeline program benefits for wireless or traditional telephone service and I understand the program rules state that no qualifying Consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently.

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 Income Based Self-Certification  
Income Certification and Company Certification for Receipt of Income Documentation**

REV 05/25/12