

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2014**

Company: West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Address: 801 Coleman Avenue

PO Box 39

Bison, SD 57620

Telephone number: 605-244-5213

Company contact: Colgan Huber

Study Area Code: 391689

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. ([www.sdplains.com](http://www.sdplains.com))
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): Please see attached items.

\*Required

**West River Cooperative Telephone Company  
Lifeline & Link-Up Advertising/Outreach  
2013-2014**

Each month, Lifeline and Link-Up applications were included in the new member packets. All year long, information and applications are made available at our front desk in our central office and on our website (<http://www.sdplains.com/lifeline-and-link-up/>). Link to Lifeline information is available on our Facebook page, under the “About” link ([www.facebook.com/WRCTC](http://www.facebook.com/WRCTC)). All newsletters are provided online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop).

June 2013

- Provided Lifeline information and applications during Grand Electric’s Annual Meeting.
- Article in newsletter about the Lifeline Program.

August 2013

- Provided information and applications at the local fairs in Bison, Buffalo, McIntosh and Nisland.

September 2013

- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Parties in Lemmon, Newell, Bison and Buffalo.
- Provided information and applications at the Lemmon Junior Livestock Show.

October 2013

- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Parties in Faith.

November 2013

- Information and applications were made available at West River Cooperative Telephone’s Annual Meeting.

January 2014

- Information and applications were made available for interested individuals at the Vale Ag Show in Vale, SD.

March 2014

- Information and applications were made available at the KBJM Farm & Home Show in Lemmon, SD.

May 2014

- News release was sent out to all local newspapers.
- Lifeline & Link-Up information and applications for Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Tribal Lands were sent to all surrounding clinics, health nurses, and assisted living centers if they needed them.

June 2014

- Lifeline Program information provided in the newsletter.
- Lifeline information and applications available at Grand Electric’s Annual Meeting.

M A Y 2014  
N E W S R E L E A S E

WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY

PO BOX 39

BISON, SD 57620

605-244-5213

CONTACT: Rachel Eggebo, Supervisor of Marketing/Member Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers**

### **Background**

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

### **What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?**

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

### **How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?**

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8);
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF);
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance;
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR);
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or
- State assistance programs (if applicable).

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the programs, call your local telephone company, state Public Utility Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-CALL-FCC. You may also visit the "Lifeline Across America" Web site [[www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov)].

**The**  
**\$1.00**

Includes Tax  
**Volume 31**  
**Number 50**  
**May 29, 2014**

# Bison Courier

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P.O. Box 429 • Bison, South Dakota 57620-0429  
Phone: (605) 244-7199 • FAX (605) 244-7198



## Lifeline: affordable telephone service for income-eligible consumers

### Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

### What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-in-

come consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

### How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8);
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF);
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance;
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF);
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR);
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or
- State assistance programs (if applicable).

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the programs, call your local telephone company, state Public Utility Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-CALL-FCC. You may also visit the "Lifeline Across America" Web site [[www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov)].

## Sidewalk, curb & gutter goes in



Hoff's Ready Mix of Lemmon delivered cement for the new sidewalk, curb & gutter.



Sidewalk in front of Bison Food Store, The Feed-lot, Farm Bureau, PCRWS and Bison Implement.

## Highlights & Happenings

**There will be a bridal shower** for Jessica Johnson, the future Mrs. Bradley Fried, on Sunday, June 8, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church in Bison. The theme for the shower is "Hats and Heels, Flats and Frills." Dressing in theme attire is encouraged, but not required. The couple is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and at White Drug in Hettinger.

**Hutterite Chickens** will be here June 19th, please place your order with Connie Aaker by June 12th, 244-5518.

## Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

### Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, 375-3470 family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

### What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a 866-4663 separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

### How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in 456-2733 every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program;
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- State assistance programs (if applicable).

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.

## Promotion



Pam Kolb was recently promoted to the Administrative Assistant/Benefits Administrator position. Pam began her career with WRCTC and Grand Electric on May 1, 1995 as a Customer 257-2778 Service Representative.

Pam's new job responsibilities include providing secretarial and administrative assistance for Manager Reisenauer, preparing reports for board meetings, making travel arrangements for employees and directors and coordinating human resource activities.

Pam and her husband, Jeff, farm and ranch southwest of Bison. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Alyssa and her husband Marty and one son Eric and his wife Liz. They have five grandchildren: Blake, Eli, Emma, Jaden and Addison. In her spare time, Pam enjoys spending time with family, 375-3791 traveling and gardening. Congratulations Pam!

## Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

### Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that 374-3298 telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

### What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer will receive a discount of \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be 972-4578 obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a 375-3986 telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers



## Call Before You Dig



**Don't assume you  
know what's below.  
Protect yourself and  
those around you –  
Call 811 every time.**

Planning a home improvement job?  
Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT!  
Here's what you need to 244-7418 know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling **811** before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small 374-3398 projects like planting trees and shrubs.

*(continued on page 4)*

## New WRCTC Members

### Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Weinreis Bros. 866-4526

### Lemmon

Henderson, Andrea 374-4359

Kearns, Heather 374-4361

### Newell

Baxter, Dan 456-3713

Blake, David & Rachael 456-3733

Goeringer, Todd 456-2826

Parrish, Jeremy & Heidi 456-3635

Russell, Taylor & Elise 456-3715

### Nisland

Davis, Rick & Kay 257-2873

Garrigan, Riley & Cally 257-2874

## Find Your Phone Number

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter.

Those members who hunted and found their number were: J.

Wulf, Vale; Boyce Reede, Lemmon; Dean Penor, Bison; Will McCall, Prairie City; Nick Mackey, Jr., Buffalo; Scott Larson, Lemmon; Warren C. Dunn, Buffalo. Hidden in this issue are ten new numbers. If you find YOUR number, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$10 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. New connect numbers do not count. **Deadline is June 20, 2014.**

**\$10**  
**bill credit**

## Lifeline (continued)

may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

### How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in 257-2740 one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (Tribal lands only if eligible)
- State assistance programs (if applicable)

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information, please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.

## Lifestyles & Landscapes!

### 2015 Directory Contest

**Deadline to enter is Aug. 15, 2014.**

Entries may be emailed to [westriver@sdplains.com](mailto:westriver@sdplains.com) or mailed to WRCTC, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

- 1st Place – \$100
- 2nd Place – \$50
- 3rd Place – \$25

*More information and rules can be found online at [www.wrctc.coop](http://www.wrctc.coop).*



# Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form

(Please Print or Type)

Company Name: West River Cooperative Telephone Company

SPIN: 143002255

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): \_\_\_\_\_ (If you are a member of a Tribal nation and do not have a social security number, you may provide your Tribal identification number.)

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 applying for:  Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)

I, one or more of my dependents, or my household currently participates in one or more of the following programs:  
(Check all that apply.) **MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF AT LEAST ONE DOCUMENT.**

- 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 to 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: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name of eligible person if different than the applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not participate in one or more of the programs listed above, you may qualify for Lifeline if your household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).

## 2014 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,755	5	\$37,679
2	\$21,236	6	\$43,160
3	\$26,717	7	\$48,641
4	\$32,198	8	\$54,122

For each additional person after 8, add \$5,481 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 79 No. 14, January 22, 2014, pp. 3593-3594

## Important Information

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility before receiving Lifeline service.

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, and possible prosecution by the United States government. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

### **I certify, under penalty of perjury, that (initial each statement):**

\_\_\_\_\_(1) I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in 47 C.F.R. § 54.409. I have provided documentation of eligibility;

\_\_\_\_\_(2) I understand that I must 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 and that I may be penalized for failing to do so;

\_\_\_\_\_(3) If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the telephone company within 30 days;

\_\_\_\_\_(4) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;

\_\_\_\_\_(5) 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);

\_\_\_\_\_(6) I give West River Telephone Company permission to give my name, telephone number, and address to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) or its agent to confirm that my household only receives one Lifeline benefit. If USAC finds that my household receives more than one Lifeline benefit, USAC will notify the telephone companies, and I will have to select one service and I will be de-enrolled from the other.

I, the Lifeline applicant/subscriber, acknowledge that WRCTC will transmit to the federal administrator of the National Lifeline Accountability Database the above-referenced information about the Lifeline account and/or service for inclusion into the Database to detect and prevent fraudulent or duplicative receipt of benefits from the Lifeline program, and hereby consent to transmission of the information for purposes allowed by law relating to administration of the Lifeline program.

By signing below, I attest that the information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Provide the completed Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form and proof of eligibility to West River Cooperative Telephone Company, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.*

**Tribal Lifeline & Link Up Assistance Application and Certification Form**

(Please Print or Type)

Company Name: **West River Cooperative Telephone Company**

SPIN: **143002255**

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): \_\_\_\_\_ If you are a member of a Tribal nation and do not have a social security number, you may provide your Tribal identification number: \_\_\_\_\_

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 applying for:

- Tribal Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount)
- Tribal Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)

*“Tribal lands” are defined as any federally-recognized Indian tribe’s reservation, pueblo or colony; Indian Allotments; and areas that fall outside the boundaries of existing Tribal lands but have been designated by the Federal Communications Commission as Tribal lands for the purpose of receiving Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up support.*

I am applying as an individual living on “tribal lands”: Yes  No

I, one or more of my dependents, or my household currently participates in one or more of the following programs: (Check all that apply.) **Must include a copy of at least one document.**

- Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Tribal TANF
- National School Lunch Program’s Free Lunch Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- OR** My household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The number of individuals in my household is: \_\_\_\_\_.

Name of eligible person if different than the applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not participate in one or more of the programs listed above, you may qualify for Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up if your household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).

**2014 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines**

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,755	5	\$37,679
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For each additional person after 8, add \$5,481 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 79 No. 14, January 22, 2014, pp. 3593-3594

**Important Information**

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility before receiving Lifeline service.

Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up are federal government assistance benefits and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefits can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment, or being barred from the programs.

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, and possible prosecution from the United States government. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person.

**I certify, under penalty of perjury, that (initial each statement):**

\_\_\_\_ (1) I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline, provided in 47 C.F.R. § 54.409. I have provided documentation of eligibility if required to do so;

\_\_\_\_ (2) I understand that I must 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 and that I may be penalized for failing to do so;

\_\_\_\_ (3) If I am seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, I live on Tribal lands, as defined in 47 C.F.R § 54.400(e);

\_\_\_\_ (4) If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the telephone company within 30 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) 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);

\_\_\_\_ (7) ) I give West River Telephone Company permission to give my name, telephone number, and address to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) or its agent to confirm that my household only receives one Lifeline benefit. If USAC finds that my household receives more than one Lifeline benefit, USAC will notify the telephone companies, and I will have to select one service and I will be de-enrolled from the other.

I, the Lifeline applicant/subscriber, acknowledge that WRCTC will transmit to the federal administrator of the National Lifeline Accountability Database the above-referenced information about the Lifeline account and/or service for inclusion into the Database to detect and prevent fraudulent or duplicative receipt of benefits from the Lifeline program, and hereby consent to transmission of the information for purposes allowed by law relating to administration of the Lifeline program. By signing below, I attest that the information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Provide the completed Lifeline and Tribal Link Up Application and Certification Form and proof of eligibility to West River Cooperative Telephone Company, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.