

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2015**

Company: City of Faith Telephone Co.

Address: Box 368

Faith, SD 57626

Telephone number: 605-967-2261

Company contact: Debbie Brown

Study Area Code: 391653

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.companywebsiteaddress.com)

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe): _____

*Required

in counties surrounding the Black Hills. Grassland areas grew to 6,430 acres in one day. In response, I ordered two National Guard helicopters to assist those

dry areas.

Since I've been in office we've experienced floods, droughts, fires, blizzards and tornadoes. South Dakota weather is anything but predictable, but I know from experience that the perseverance and benevolence of South Dakotans are things upon which we can always depend. That being said, we need to do all we can to prevent fires, especially this year.

Keep up with your city, school, and county... Read the Legals

NOTICE

Faith Municipal Telephone Company provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service	\$14.00/month
Single Party Business Service	\$21.50/month

Local residence and business service includes:

- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge is and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Faith Municipal Telephone Company's voice 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. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. 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.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Faith Municipal Telephone Company's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Faith Municipal Telephone Company's office at (605)967-2261.

Gov. Daugaard's Column

Preparing for a Dry Year

It's only April and it's already looking like it will be a dry year. Right now, 99 percent of the state's ground is abnormally dry. About 13 percent is experiencing moderate drought. The drought area includes northeastern South Dakota and another portion in Meade and Pennington counties, leaving 132,149 South Dakotans who live in an area affected by drought.

Because it's so dry, we're at an elevated risk for fires. The fire danger is currently "very high" for the Black Hills and "extreme" in counties surrounding the Black Hills. Grassland areas

throughout the state are under a "red flag warning" from the National Weather Service.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's Wildland Fire Division helps with response to wildfires on forested, state and private lands. Just in the last few days, the Division has reported fires near Fort Pierre, at Custer State Park, in the Palmer Gulch area and in Harding County.

The Sheep Draw Fire in Harding County is the worst we've experienced so far this year. With wind gusts up to 70 mph, the fire grew to 6,430 acres in one day. In response, I ordered two National Guard helicopters to assist those

on the ground in putting out the fire. As I write this, the size of the Sheep Draw Fire is now estimated at almost 14,000 acres, but thanks to local firefighters, the state Division of Wildland Fire and others who are helping, the fire is 85 percent contained.

This could be just the beginning of a difficult fire season. I know some fires are inevitable – we can't prevent lightning strikes or control how much moisture we receive – but there are still ways we can prevent fires.

We need to respect county burn bans when they're in place. Where fires are permitted, never leave a fire unattended, completely extinguish fires before leaving the area and remind others to be cautious. Also, be mindful when operating equipment in dry areas.

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- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)

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CITY OF FAITH

P.O. Box 368
Faith, South Dakota 57626-0368
Phone: (605) 967-2261

Dear Customer,

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

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Customers are eligible if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following programs:

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

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

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To apply for this low-income assistance, please contact the Faith Municipal Telephone Company at 605-967-2261.

BILLING NAME & ADDRESS DISCLOSURE

When you place a calling card call, or accept a collect call or third-number billed call, your telephone company is required to provide your billing name and address to the telecommunications service provider that handled the call, if that provider requests. Your telephone company will continue to provide billing name and address information to telecommunications service providers for other account matters, such as customer service, servicing your account, to prevent fraud or when you move from one location to another.

LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Faith Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide a federal telephone assistance program that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low income citizens.

- The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Subscribers must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Federal Housing Assistance.

WHAT DO THE PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$9.25 each month on the basic service portion of the telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers also may receive blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line at no charge.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. Application forms are available at our office at: Faith Municipal Telephone Company, PO Box 368, Faith, SD 57626.

COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

When you no longer are eligible to participate in the above assistance program, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline. You are obligated by law to notify Faith Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline.

PAY-PER-CALL BILLING RIGHTS

Some companies offer a variety of informational services using phone numbers beginning with 900. There is usually a charge for calls to these numbers. The price and content of these services are established by the companies providing the information.

For 900 billing disputes or inquiries, please call your local telephone company. You have 60 days from the date of the bill to dispute a 900 billing error review. You have the right to withhold payment of the disputed 900 charges during the billing error review. No collection activity for disputed 900 charges will occur while the charges are under investigation. After investigation, if it is determined that the disputed 900 charges are legitimate, the long distance company, or the information provider, may proceed with outside collections against your account for nonpayment of these charges. Your local and long distance service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment of 900 charges. Failure to pay legitimate 900 charges may result in involuntary blocking of access to 900 services. Voluntary blocking of access to 900 services is available upon request from your local telephone company.