

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

Company: Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
(FKA SSTELECOM, Inc.)

Address: PO Box 920
312 4th St West
Clear Lake, SD 57226

Telephone number: 605-874-2181

Company contact: Jim Canaan

Study Area Code: 399013

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://itc-web.com/>
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe): Listed on PUC website

*Required

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (ITC)/ Milbank offers voice telephony service to all consumers in its service area.

Single Party Residence Service	\$19.00/month
Single Party Business Service	\$19.00/month

This service provides subscribing customers with:

- Flat rated local exchange service free of per minute charges
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Toll blocking/Toll limitation

Lifeline, a federal program that provides a monthly discount on telephone service, is available to qualified, low-income residents. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), the National School Lunch (NSL) Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), or Federal Public Housing Assistance. Subscribers whose household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines also qualify for Lifeline. Lifeline is available on one telephone line per household. Customers may not transfer their Lifeline discount to another person, even if the other person qualifies for Lifeline. Customers who qualify for Lifeline must submit proof of eligibility along with their applications.

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

July 2015



Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.
312 4th Street West, PO Box 920, Clear Lake, SD 57226

Lifeline and Toll Limitation Service support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. (**Note:** Telecommunications carriers cannot charge a Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the local service portion of their telephone bill.)

What type of discount is available?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS) support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

How do I know whether I am eligible?

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support *varies by state*. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not provide state support, an individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

One Lifeline service per household.

General Information

that legal process is about to be served; calls demanding payments for amounts not owed; calls to places of employment; and calls misrepresenting the terms and conditions of existing or proposed contracts. Although many of these calls are placed on a local basis, there is increasing indication that such improper practices also involve use of interstate toll and Wide Area Telephone Service (WATS).

Tariffs of the telephone companies forbid use of the telephone...for a call or calls, anonymous or otherwise, if in a manner reasonably to be expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another, or for calls that...interfere unreasonably with the use of the service by one or more other customers, or calls for...unlawful purpose. Upon violation of any of these conditions the telephone company can, by written notice, discontinue service forthwith. These tariff regulations are filed with this Commission pursuant to Section 203 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 203, and are binding on the telephone company and customer alike. Users of the telephone service

are also subject to the enforcement proceedings provided for in Sections 401 and 411 of the Communications Act. In addition to the loss of telephone service for violation of the tariffs, Section 223 of the Communications Act makes it a crime to use the telephone in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign communications to make "repeated telephone calls, during which conversation ensues, solely to harass any person at the called number" or to knowingly permit "others to use his/her telephone" for such purpose. Penalties for violation of Section 223 are a fine up to \$500.00 or six months' imprisonment, or both, 47 U.S.C. 223.

The Commission is concerned that some users of telephone service may be unaware of their obligations to refrain from using the service for abusive or harassing calls. It is also concerned that other users may be willfully and repeatedly violating the provision of the tariffs and the applicable statutes, and that the telephone companies are not adequately enforcing their tariffs. Accordingly, the Commission is issuing this Public Notice

in order that the public may be informed of the requirements of law in this area and so that users may be alerted to their legal obligations in the use of the telephone and the penalties for failure to abide thereby.



Lifeline And Link-Up

Lifeline Service support provides discounts to eligible low income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. A household is eligible for only one lifeline credit, which may be applied to landline or wireless service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. Eligible residents of tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support.

Tribal Link-Up reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 100% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$100.

Eligibility of Lifeline support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline and Link-Up if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state.

To be eligible for these programs the telephone service must be in the applicant's name. An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Food Stamps
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her Temporary Assistance for Needy Families household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

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

"Does not indicate Lifeline is a federal program or Lifeline is non-transferable."



July 7, 2015

LIFELINE ANNUAL RECERTICATION FORMS ARE DUE BY August 6th TO KEEP YOUR LIFELINE DISCOUNT

Dear LIFELINE Subscriber,

LIFELINE is a federal program that makes monthly telephone service more affordable for eligible households. Lifeline is available on one telephone line per household and may not be transferred to another person.

Every year, you must certify that you or a member of your household still receives: Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8; Low Income Home Energy Assistance; Medicaid; National School Lunch free lunch program; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income; or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families **OR** that your total household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. If you live on federally recognized tribal lands, you must certify that you or a member of your household still receives assistance from one of the programs above or: BIA General Assistance, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations; Head Start (income eligible only) or Tribal TANF. Everyone must also certify that no one in the household has LIFELINE assistance on another phone – home or wireless.

To keep your LIFELINE assistance, fill-out, sign, and return the enclosed LIFELINE ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION FORM to ITC within 30 days from the date of this letter. If you no longer qualify for Lifeline **OR** if your household receives Lifeline from another provider, check the appropriate box on the form, sign it and return it to ITC. Subscribers who do not return the LIFELINE ANNUAL RECERTICATION FORM by **August 6th** will lose their LIFELINE assistance.

Please feel free to call 1-800-395-4656 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Donahue

ITC

Enclosure



Lifeline Assistance Application and 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): _____ (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)
_____ Toll Limitation Service (free toll blocking or toll control)

I, one or more of my dependents, or my household currently participates 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 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).

2015 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$15,890	5	\$38,354
2	\$21,506	6	\$43,970
3	\$27,122	7	\$49,586
4	\$32,738	8	\$55,202

SIGN REVERSE SIDE

For each additional person after 8, add \$5,616 to the annual guideline.

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 14, January 22, 2015, pp. 3236-3237

Important Information

You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

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. I have provided documentation of eligibility if required to do so;
- (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 be required 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) 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 acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (8) The information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- (9) I give ITC permission to release to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) or its agent any records required 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.

Signature

Date

Provide the completed application and certification form to your phone company. Your telephone company will contact you for any additional information needed to prove eligibility.

For more information about Lifeline, see www.PUC.SD.gov/Lifeline

ITC - I Truly Care

This month, ITC would like you to meet Kent Simon. Kent works as a Provisioning Support employee at the headquarters office in Clear Lake. He has been in the telecommunications industry for 17 years with more than 8 of those years at ITC. Kent has a degree in Telecommunications from Mitchell Technical Institute.

As a Provisioning Support person, Kent ensures that the billing system is properly communicating with all the equipment in ITC's network. Kent supports the Installer Repair Technicians (IR Techs) by assigning ITC's network facilities and ensuring everything is ready for an installation. He also helps the IR Techs troubleshoot customer issues. Another responsibility is to make sure all services are set up correctly and that each member's services match their bill.

If asked what is his favorite part of the job, Kent would tell you he enjoys helping the on-site technicians troubleshoot customer issues. He also enjoys being a part of rolling out the latest technologies as ITC continues to invest money in service improvement. He will tell you, "It's great to be a part of a Coop that provides such valuable services on a local level." Kent also says, "We might not be the lowest cost available, but the capital credits we pay out makes us very competitive and keeps money spent on services local."

Kent and his wife Lynn have two children. They live in Clear Lake and enjoy watching their kids' sporting events. In his spare time, Kent helps coach Youth Football and Basketball. He is an active member of the Deuel High School Booster Club.

One thing you might not know about Kent is he likes to garden. So, the next time you need tips on how to grow the best produce, you know who to ask!



Lifeline Offers Telcom Discounts

Lifeline is a federal program that provides a monthly discount on telephone service to qualified low-income residents. Lifeline is designed to ensure that telephone service remains affordable to all residents.

The Lifeline assistance program provides a \$9.25 credit on a monthly telephone bill. You may qualify for Lifeline if your total household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, or if you, your dependent, or your household receives one of the following:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch free lunch program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Lifeline is available on one telephone line per household. If you or someone in your household has Lifeline on a wireless phone, then you cannot get it on your home phone too. You may not transfer your Lifeline discount to another person, even if he or she qualifies for Lifeline. If you believe you qualify for Lifeline, stop by the ITC office and fill out an application form or call our office at 1.800.417.8667 for assistance. Please note that you must enroll in Lifeline service, and you must provide proof of eligibility before receiving support.

Qualifying residents of Tribal lands may receive additional discounts. To find out more about either of these programs, please contact ITC at 1.800.417.8667.



Cooperatively Speaking

By Holly Stormo
Marketing
Communications
Specialist



ITC University Feedback

ITC University is taking a break for the summer. We have taught several classes this spring, including iPad Basics, iPad Tips & Tricks, and Pixlr (photo editing). Thank you to everyone who attended those classes. We hope you have used some of your new knowledge!

Now it is time to ask for your feedback. We want to make ITC University the best it can be. Please consider giving feedback to help us in the future. We especially request input from those of you who haven't attended classes. We are looking for class suggestions that might encourage you to attend. Here is the two-question survey:

1. Are there any classes related to the Internet, computer, or TV that you would like us to teach?
2. What time of the day is best for you to attend class?

Please email your answers to survey@itctel.com.

ITC University will return in September. We hope to use the summer to make the fall class line-up spectacular.

If you have any questions about ITC University, please contact us at 1.800.417.8667.

