

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2016**

Company: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company

Address: 101 N. 3rd Street

Beresford, SD 57004

Telephone number: 605-763-2500

Company contact: Todd Hansen, General Manager

Study Area Code: 391649

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- X Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)
- X Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up.* (See attached letter.)
- X Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- X Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. (www.bmtc.net)
- X Company's information posted on USAC website.
- X Other (describe): Information placed on City Hall bulletin board
for public viewing
-

*Required

Beresford Lifeline Info:

Pages

1 & 2	Local Paper Beresford Republic
3 & 4	Beresford Phone Book
5	Beresford Telephone Bill Insert
7 & 8	Beresford Telephone Web Page

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Rates and Lifeline Program

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

Single Line Residential Service	\$21.74
Single Line Business Service	\$28.24
Multi Line Business Service	\$33.15

Local resident and business service includes:

- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
- Single-party flat-rated local service free of per minute charges
- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch-tone) service
- Access to directory assistance services
- Access to other operator services
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Access to interexchange (long distance) services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline telephone assistance program is available for qualifying low-income subscribers. This program provides a monthly service discount on telephone service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in at least one of the following programs or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps program)
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance

Beresford 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 & share income & 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 BMTC's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunication services, please call BMTC's office at 605/763-2500.

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Beresford Republic
January 22, 2015

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Toll Fraud - cont'd

U.S. CODE, TITLE 18 Section 1343

Fraud by Wire. Whoever, having devised or intending to devise any scheme or artifice to defraud, or for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, transmits or causes to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, or television communication in interstate or foreign commerce, and writings, signs, signals, pictures, or sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme or artifice, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

HOUSE BILL NO., 639, as passed by the Fifty-Second Session of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota stipulates the following:

1. Any person owning or having control of any pipes, wires, cables, or other facilities for the transmission of gas, oil, electricity, water, communications, or other products or services, which are buried beneath the surface of the ground, including areas within the limits of any political subdivision, shall give written notice thereof to the office of the register of deeds in the county where the facilities are located.
2. The register of deeds of each county where the facilities described are buried shall establish and maintain a uniform file system containing the information furnished by the owner or person having control of these facilities.
3. Any person intending to conduct any digging, grading, leveling, excavating, blasting, or similar activities upon the lands described in the notice shall request the person owning or controlling the facilities to accurately locate them upon the land where they are situated, at least two days per location, not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the commencement of the activity.

Lifeline and Toll Limitation Services

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 receive a \$9.25 credit per month.

Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

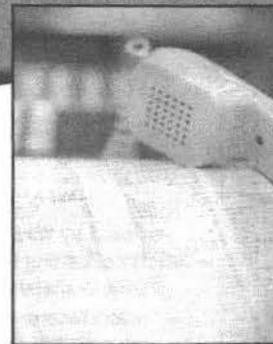
Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

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 and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline 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

Lifeline and Toll Limitation Services - cont'd



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

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

To apply for Lifeline and TLS discounts, please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 101 N. 3rd, Beresford, SD 57004 or (605)763-2500.

Use Of Telephone For Debt Collection Purposes

The Federal Communications Commission has received information that interstate telephone service is being used for collection of claimed debts in ways that are or may be in violation of applicable tariffs of the telephone companies and criminal statutes. Practices alleged include calling at odd hours of the day or night; repeated calls; calls to friends, neighbors, relatives, employers, and children; calls making a variety of threats; calls asserting falsely that credit ratings will be hurt; calls falsely stating 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 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.

**Beresford Municipal Telephone
120 E. Main Street
Beresford, SD 57004
763-2500**

Notice to Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Customers

Low Income Assistance Available:

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide a federal telephone assistance program that was developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens. The **Lifeline** program provides reduced monthly charges to residential telephone subscribers who qualify.

Who is Eligible?

Subscribers must have household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or the subscriber, one or more of their dependents, or their household must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

Medicaid	Low Income Home Energy Assistance
Food Stamps	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Housing Assistance	Temporary Aid to Needy Families
National School Lunch Free Lunch Program	

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	\$15,889	5	\$38,353
2	\$21,505	6	\$43,969
3	\$27,121	7	\$49,585
4	\$32,737	8	\$55,201

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.

What does the Program Provide?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$9.25 on their basic telephone charges. 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. You must also show proof of program participation or income eligibility. More details on this documentation requirement and application forms are available at our office at: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 120 E. Main St., Beresford, SD 57004, and at Beresford City Hall, 101 N. 3rd St., Beresford, SD 57004.

Could I Become Ineligible?

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

***If you feel you qualify for this program or would like more information,
please call us at 763-2500 or stop in our office at 120 E. Main Street.***

Call Waiting	\$.75	Automatic Call Back	\$1.00
Call Forward	\$.75	Automatic Recall	\$1.00
Call Forward-Don't Answer	\$1.00	Voice Mail-Basic	\$2.50
Call Forward-Busy	\$1.00	Voice Mail-Basic + Enhanced	\$3.25
Remote Activation of Call Forward	\$1.00	Voice Mail-Enhanced	\$3.25
Selective Call Forward	\$1.00	Voice Mail-Enhanced + Email Notify	\$4.00
Anonymous Call Rejection	\$1.00	Allow Selected Toll Calls	\$3.00
Selective Call Acceptance	\$1.00	Telemarketer Call Screening	\$2.50
Selective Call Rejection	\$1.00	Additional Directory Listing	\$.75

~~*~~ Lifeline Information (financial assistance for low-income customers)

Business People

Click on the link above for local residential and business telephone listings.

To contact Beresford Municipal Telephone, please call, fax, e-mail, or stop by our office:
 120 E. Main Street
 Beresford, SD 57004



Beresford Municipal Telephone Company

Home • Local Telephone • Long Distance Telephone • Internet • Analog Cable • Digital Cable • Bundles

Lifeline

BMTC provides a federal telephone assistance program for low-income citizens. The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone customers who qualify. Subscribers must have a **household** income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines **or** must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible.

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Federal Housing Assistance
- Temporary Aid to Needy Families
- National School Lunch Free Lunch Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income

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.

Toll Limitation Service allows eligible Lifeline customers who wish to avoid incurring long distance fees to choose toll blocking at no cost.

If a customer qualifies due to income requirements, documentation is required prior to installation. Acceptable forms of documentation include:

- >Prior year tax return
- >Paycheck stubs (must be 3 consecutive months within current calendar year)
- >Social Security Statement of Benefits
- >Veterans Administration Statement of Benefits
- >Retirement/Pension Statement of Benefits
- >Unemployment/Workman's Compensation Statement of Benefits
- >Divorce Decree, child support, or other official document

For more information on the Lifeline program, please
call us at 763-2500.

To contact Beresford Municipal Telephone, please call, fax, e-mail, or stop by our office:

*120 E. Main Street
Beresford, SD 57004
Phone: 605/763-2500 or 605/763-2008
Fax: 605/763-7112
E-mail: phone@bmtc.net*