

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT**

JULY 1, 2017

Company: Midstate Communications, Inc.

Address: 120 East First St PO Box 48

Kimball SD 57355

Telephone number: 605-778-6221

Company contact: Kathy Taylor

Study Area Code: 399011

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.midstatesd.net))
- x Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe):
-
-

*Required

Lifeline Assistance Application and Certification Form

(Please print or type)

Company Name: **Midstate Communications & Midstate Telecom**

SPIN: **14007716 & 143030709**

Account Name: _____

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 physical 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) **Minimum of \$9.25**
_____ Toll Limitation Service (free toll blocking or toll control-deposit waived)
_____ Tribal Link Up (Tribal Only - telephone connection charge discount)

Are you currently living on Reservation Land? _____ 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.) You will be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

- _____ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
_____ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
_____ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
_____ 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
_____ Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (Tribal Only)
_____ Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF – Tribal Only)
_____ Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met – Tribal Only)
_____ Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (Tribal Only)

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, Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up if your household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see table below).

2016 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$16,038	5	\$38,394
2	\$21,627	6	\$43,983
3	\$27,216	7	\$49,586
4	\$32,805	8	\$55,202

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

Federal Register, Vol. 81 No. 15, January 25, 2016, pp. 4036-4037

SEE BACK PAGE

Important Information

You **will** be required to provide documentation of eligibility.

Lifeline, 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. 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 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) If I provided a temporary residential address to the telephone company, I will be required to verify my temporary residential address every 90 days;
- (6) The individual names on the documentation provided demonstrating program-based eligibility, if not me, is part of my household;
- (7) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and (including cell phone service), to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;
- (8) 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);
- (9) I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (10) The information contained in this application and certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Provide the completed application and certification form to your phone company. Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom will contact you for any additional information needed to prove eligibility.

For more information about Lifeline, see www.PUC.SD.gov/Lifeline or for more information about Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up, see www.PUC.SD.gov/TribalLifeline

Lifeline Assistance Re-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 certifying eligibility for:

- _____ Lifeline (monthly telephone service discount) **Minimum of \$9.25**
_____ Tribal Link Up (telephone connection charge discount)
_____ Toll Limitation Service (free toll blocking or toll control-deposit waived)

I am applying as an individual living on "tribal lands": Yes _____ No _____

("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, 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 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 for Needy Families (TANF)
_____ National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
_____ Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (Tribal Only)
_____ Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF – Tribal Only)
_____ Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met – Tribal Only)
_____ 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: _____.

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

2016 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$16,038	5	\$38,394
2	\$21,627	6	\$43,983
3	\$27,216	7	\$49,586
4	\$32,805	8	\$55,202

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

Source: Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 15, January 25, 2016, pp. 4036-4037

Signature needed on back side

Important Information

Lifeline, 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. 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 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) If I provided a temporary residential address to the telephone company, I will meet requirements to verify my temporary residential address every 90 days;
- (6) The individual named on documentation provided previously to demonstrate program-based eligibility, if not me, is part of my household;
- (7) My household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service;
- (8) 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);
- (9) I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and
- (10) 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 Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom. The company will contact you if any additional information is needed to prove your continued eligibility.

For more information about Lifeline, see www.PUC.SD.gov/Lifeline or for more information about Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up, see www.PUC.SD.gov/TribalLifeline

**Consent to Provide Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Subscriber
Information to the National Lifeline Accountability Database**

The Federal Communications Commission has established the National Lifeline Accountability Database ("Database") to detect and prevent consumers from receiving more than one discounted telephone service under the federal Lifeline program.

Under federal law, Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom is required to check/query this Database prior to signing up Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscribers and is also required to provide to the federal administrator of this Database the following information regarding each new and existing Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber:

- * The Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's full name;
- * The Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's full residential Address;
- * The Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's date of birth;
- * The last four digits of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up subscriber's Social Security number or Tribal Identification Number (if the subscriber is a Tribal member and does not have a Social Security number);
- * The telephone number associated with the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service;
- * The date on which the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service was initiated;
- * The date on which the Lifeline service was terminated (if applicable);
- * The amount of Lifeline service support being sought for the subscriber;
- * The means through which the subscriber qualified for Lifeline service (income or program-based, Medicaid, etc.)

The above information related to your Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service is being provided by Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom to the federal administrator (the "Universal Service Administrative Company" and/or its agents) of the National Lifeline Accountability Database to verify that you, as a Lifeline/Tribal Link Up applicant and/or subscriber, are not receiving more than one Lifeline/Tribal Link Up benefit, and to otherwise ensure proper administration of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up program.

I, the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up applicant/subscriber, acknowledge that Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom will transmit to the federal administrator of the National Lifeline Accountability Database the above-referenced information about my Lifeline/Tribal Link Up account and/or service for inclusion into the Database, and hereby consent to transmission of the information for purposes allowed by law relating to administration of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up program.

I further understand that a failure to provide this consent to release my Lifeline/Tribal Link Up account and/or service information to the federal administrator for inclusion in the National Lifeline Accountability Database will result in a denial of or de-enrollment from Lifeline/Tribal Link Up service.

Signature

Date

Verification Checklist - Proof of Lifeline or Tribal Link Up Eligibility

Applicant Name: _____

Program Participant Name (if different from Applicant): _____

Application for Benefit submitted based on: Program Participation Eligibility Income Eligibility

Date on which documentation supporting Application reviewed: ____/____/____

Name or ID of employee who reviewed documentation: _____

A. If eligibility reviewed based on state or federal social service or income database:

Name of database: _____ Date database queried: ____/____/____

Attach copy of confirmation received or screen shot of web page showing confirmation, or

Employee or agent confirms that database indicated eligibility (initials): _____

B. If eligibility reviewed based on contact with state agency:

Agency consulted: _____ Name of contacted individual: _____

Date eligibility confirmation received: ____/____/____ (Attach copy of notice provided by state agency confirming eligibility.)

C. If eligibility determined by employee/agent review of eligibility documentation (based on income or program participation)

(1) Describe or indicate type of documentation reviewed (check all reviewed):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agency award letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefit check stub from Soc. Sec. Adm. (if eligibility based on SSI) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utility bill (if eligibility based on LIHEAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Current income statement from employer or paycheck stub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficiary card | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal or tribal notice/letter of participation in General Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement or pension statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of participation or enrollment from agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Administration statement of benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment or Workers Compensation statement of benefits |
-
- ☐ Benefit check stub from BIA (if eligibility based on BIA General Assistance)
- ☐ Divorce decree, child support award, or other official document with income information
- ☐ Describe documentation if not specifically identified above: _____

(If documentation relied on for income eligibility does not cover a full year, subscriber must present documentation covering at least three consecutive months within previous twelve months)

(2) Date or expiration date of documentation (indicate which): ____/____/____

- ☐ Document Date ☐ Expiration Date ☐ No date available on applicant's documentation

(3) Method documentation was provided or received:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In person..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, returned |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By FAX..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, destroyed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> By mail..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, destroyed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronically..... | <input type="checkbox"/> After review, destroyed/deleted |

General Rules & Regulations

Taxes

Federal law requires a 3 percent excise tax on telephone rental and long distance charges. These taxes are billed to all telephone users not specifically exempt by law. All taxes collected are remitted to the proper federal and state agencies.

Allowance For Failure Of Service

The Telephone Companies do not guarantee uninterrupted working of its lines or equipment. In case service is interrupted otherwise than by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber, an adjustment will, upon application by a subscriber, be made in the amount of charges for such service, equipment, and facilities furnished as are rendered useless or inoperative. Any adjustment shall apply only to the period the interruption continues beyond 24 hours after notice of the interruption is received by the Telephone Companies. No other liability shall in any case attach to the Telephone Companies.

Billing & Payment For Service

If you desire assistance or explanation regarding your bill, please call the Business Office.

National Do Not Call Registry

The federal government created the National Do Not Call Registry to make it easier and more efficient for you to stop getting most telemarketing sales calls you don't want. You can register online at www.donotcall.gov if you have an active email address, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free and your number will stay in the registry until it is disconnected, or until you delete it from the registry.

If you receive telemarketing calls after you have registered your telephone number and it has been in the registry for three months, you can file a complaint at www.donotcall.gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You will have to know the company's name or phone number to file a "do not call" complaint.

Annoying, Obscene, & Threatening Calls

If you get an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 21 for instructions on using Customer Originated Trace. Threatening calls should be reported immediately to the police. Obscene or harassing calls are prohibited by federal and state laws. A person who makes or permits such calls to be made over a telephone under his/her control may be fined or imprisoned, or both.

Telephone Assistance Programs

Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone & Broadband Subscribers

Midstate Communications is authorized to offer Lifeline assistance to our customers. The Lifeline Universal Service Program is a government supported program available to qualified, low-income consumers and offers a discount for eligible telephone and bundled Internet service meeting the minimum standards. If you are an existing telephone service subscriber receiving the monthly Lifeline discount, you can continue to apply that discount to your home phone voice service. Effective December of 2019, Lifeline discount amount available for voice only services will begin to decrease. If, however, the Lifeline support provided is applied to a bundled service package which includes not only telephone voice service, but also Internet Service you can avoid these discount decreases and continue receiving the maximum discount, currently \$9.25.

Moving your monthly Lifeline discount so that it also applies to your current bundled service which includes both voice telephone service and Internet service, will generally require that you agree to not transfer your Lifeline benefit to another provider for twelve months. There are certain exceptions to this requirement.

Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

The Tribal Lifeline program provides a reduction in monthly charges to telephone or bundled Internet service to customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program. Eligible subscribers may be eligible for additional discounts up to \$25.

The Tribal Link-Up program provides a reduction in connection charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

How to Qualify for a Lifeline Discount:

You must participate in at least one of the following programs to be eligible for a Lifeline Program discount:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veteran's Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
- Income Below the Federal Poverty Guidelines

If residing on tribal lands the following eligibility criteria is also available to be utilized:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution on Indian Reservations
- Head Start



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MESSENGER

120 E. First, P.O. Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 • (605) 778-6221 • Fax: (605) 778-8080

Trivia~Trivia~Trivia

Which United States athlete holds the distinction of winning the most Olympic medals?

****Deadline to enter is the 15th of the Month.** All correct entries will be entered into a drawing for \$10.00. Submit your answers by: 1) Writing your answer on a piece of paper with your name, address and telephone number, and mailing to our Midstate office at PO Box 48, Kimball SD 57355 or 2) Go online to our website at www.midstatesd.net and click on the Trivia link in the bottom left corner and submit your answer online following the online instructions. *Trivia submissions will not be taken by telephone. ONE SUBMISSION PER FAMILY PLEASE.*

And the Winner is...

Jeff Tveit He knew that the Chamberlain/Oacoma and Ft. Thompson/Gann Valley exchanges were scheduled to have a Board of Directors election this year!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

This year marks the 64th Anniversary of Midstate Communications as your customer owned Telecommunications Company. We would like to send a special invite out to all of our members to join us at the Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at the Kimball High School gymnasium. As always we will have great food, fun and prizes for all that attend. We hope that you will join us and help celebrate our successes along with being an informed member owner. The meeting is open to all ages and we encourage you to bring your whole family and share in the fun.

Thursday, October 6, 2016

Kimball High School Gymnasium

6:00 p.m. – Free Meal Begins

7:00 p.m. – Business Meeting Begins

Important Dates to Remember...

Please mark the following dates, regarding our billing schedule, on your calendar. Bills are mailed the last business day of each month, and payment is due on the 20th of the month. Paying on time saves frustrating calls and unwanted late fees.

- **Last Business Day of Each Month**
Bills mailed out from Midstate's office
- **5th of Each Month**
Disconnect of all accounts with a 30 day balance.
- **20th of Each Month**
Bills are due in either Midstate office by 12:00 p.m.
- **20th of Each Month**
Overdue notices mailed out and late fees will be applied to all delinquent accounts.

**All Midstate bills are due upon receipt. Any bills that have not been received by the 5th of the following month will be disconnected. To be reconnected the bill must be paid in full and will be subject to a down payment and appropriate reconnect fees.*

Watch the Olympics Anywhere with TV Everywhere...

The 2016 Rio Olympic Games will be the eighth consecutive summer Games to be broadcast on NBC and NBC Universal family of networks, in addition to being streamed live on NBCOlympics.com and NBC Sports Live Extra.



NBC television coverage will begin with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, August 5, with primetime coverage on NBC running from August 5-21. A wide array of NBC Universal networks will host extensive Olympic Coverage throughout the Games. Full details and channel listings are available on NBCOlympics.com. NBC family network coverage will include:

- **NBC SportsNet:** 330 hours of Olympic programming and more than 20 sports will be covered. NBC SportsNet will serve as the showcase network for Team USA women's soccer, and Team USA men's and women's basketball. In addition to basketball and soccer, coverage will also include track and field, archery, boxing, cycling, fencing, field hockey, judo, open water swimming, rugby, shooting, synchronized swimming, table tennis, weightlifting, wrestling and more.
- **Golf Channel:** Golf Channel will present tournament programming highlighted by live coverage of the Men's and Women's Olympic Golf competition (Men's: Thursday, August 11- Sunday, August 14; Women's: Wednesday, August 17 – Saturday, August 20).
- **Bravo:** Bravo will once again serve as the home of Olympic tennis.
- **CNBC:** Will showcase elimination-round coverage of basketball and volleyball, as well as archery, beach volleyball, cycling, rugby, water polo, wrestling, and many more sports. Olympic coverage will take place from 5-8 p.m. ET.
- **MSNBC:** Will carry coverage of men's basketball, beach volleyball, rugby, soccer, volleyball and water polo.
- **USA Network:** Most weekdays, USA will present eight hours of coverage, from 9 a.m. ET to 5 p.m. ET, in addition to weekend programming. USA's coverage includes men's basketball, beach volleyball, cycling rowing, synchronized swimming, volleyball, water polo and more.

All events will be live streamed on NBCOlympics.com and on NBC Sports Live Extra via TV

Everywhere.

TV Everywhere provides great entertainment wherever you are. At home you can watch your favorite TV show on a tablet, laptop or game console in one room while others watch on the big screen in another room. Away from home all you need is WiFi access and you could be watching TV – at the kids' sports practice, in an airport or coffee shop, waiting for an appointment – wherever your day takes you. This service is available at no extra cost to Midstate Communications Cable Television customers!

Visit www.midstatesd.net to and click on the Watch TVEverywhere link to register and start watching your TV Everywhere!

Knippling, Biskeborn to be Re-Appointed to Midstate Board of Directors...

Two districts were open for elections this year with only one district exchanges fielding more than one candidate forcing an election to be held. In the District Exchange of Ft. Thompson/Gann Valley, only one candidate filed the necessary paperwork for the board position. Incumbent Clayton Knippling, will be re-appointed to the Midstate Communications Board of Directors to serve his respective district. In the Chamberlain/Oacoma District, two candidates were on the ballot, with incumbent Scott Biskeborn and Donn DeBoer squaring off. When all the votes were tabulated incumbent, Scott Biskeborn received the most votes in the election defeating challenger Donn Deboer.

Both directors will begin serving a three-year term at the Annual Meeting of Members of Midstate Communications on October 6, 2016.

Common Mistakes Many People Make When Buying a Computer...

Computers, computers everywhere. Let's face it, computers have become an integral part of our daily lives. Fortunately, computers are pretty easy to get our hands on, but finding the right computer to meet your needs and your budget is the hard part.

For the less tech-savvy individual's, buying a computer is no easy task. There is a lot of jargon used when you are looking for a computer and all of it is trying to take a bite out of your wallet. The most important factor when purchasing a computer is finding a system won't break down in a year, fail to work as expected, or cost a penny more than it ought to. Unfortunately many people get caught up in the buying frenzy so be careful you don't get caught up in these common mistakes.

- **Not buying based on your needs.** We all see the commercials the newest computer on the market with all the bells and whistles, but is it something you need? Don't purchase based on media hype. If you are going to do light internet browsing, play card games, and some word processing you can do this with a basic system and don't need the fastest machine on the market. This will save your wallet as well.
- **Assuming a feature is included.** Computers come in all shapes, sizes, and configurations. If you want a computer with a CD/DVD drive, look and see if there is one. Many laptops are eliminating these drives to become lighter for the consumer. Ask questions and review the system closely. Look for speakers, USB ports, media card readers. Never assume a system will have what you want.
- **Thinking components can be upgraded.** One great thing about most desktops, and some laptops, is there's room to add or upgrade components such as memory. You first want to make sure your computer has free slots for any upgrades and that your operating system will support the upgrades.
- **Buying whatever's cheapest.** Depending on your level of computer use you may be able to get away with only needing a cheaper priced system. But not everyone will. As with anything cheap and old hardware is going to wear out and fail to meet the requirements of newer better equipment faster. A \$200 machine could last you 1-2 years but not before causing you many headaches. Often times by spending just a bit more you'll have a good chance of finding a more reliable, longer lasting PC.
- **New vs Refurbished.** New computers are always shiny and super-fast, but if you want to be easy on your wallet, take a look at refurbished systems. Midstate carries the highest rated refurbished HP laptops and most if not all look as good as any brand new system but with a much nicer price tag that is easier on the wallet.
- **Support after the sale.** This is crucial with computers. Have someplace that you can go to for support questions and concerns after the sale. Purchasing a system from a big box store only to have to send it back in a box for repair can leave you wondering if you will ever see it again or worse yet, will your pictures still be on it when you get it back. Give Midstate a call and ask how we sell not just computers but service after the sale.

Telephone Assistance to Low Income and Tribal Lands Consumers...

Low-income consumers may qualify for assistance that will reduce the cost of basic monthly telephone service. Lifeline/Linkup Assistance is available to qualifying consumers in every U.S. state (territory and commonwealth). Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service to qualifying consumers. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts.

To be eligible for Lifeline assistance the telephone subscriber must participate 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.

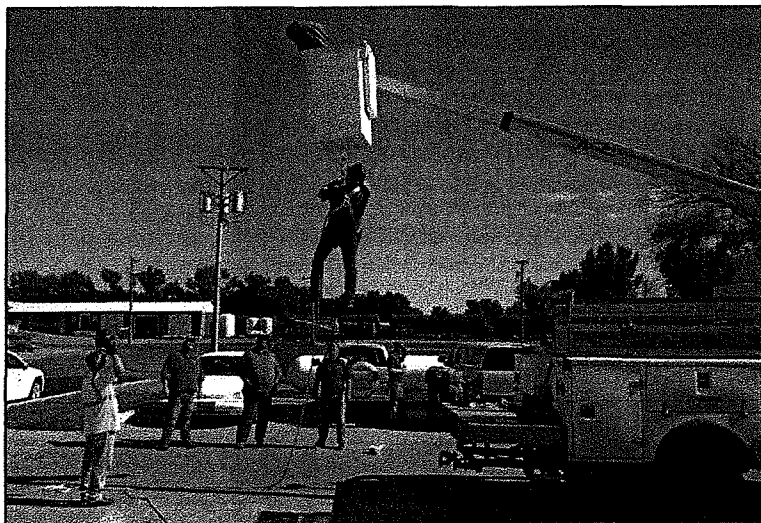
Residents of American Indian reservations or tribal lands may qualify for up to an additional \$25 of enhanced Lifeline support monthly and a credit of up to \$100 on their initial installation charges. An individual living on tribal lands may qualify for Lifeline and Linkup discounts if he or she participates in one of the programs listed above or also by receiving assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or Head Start (only for those households meeting its income qualifying standard).

If you live in a Midstate Communications service area and feel you may qualify for either of these programs please contact Midstate Communications, PO Box 48, Kimball, SD 57355 or by phone at 605-778-6221.

Midstate Employees Partake in Safety Training...

Safety in the workplace is always at the top of importance for all employers and employees. Recently Midstate Communications outside plant team members underwent safety training focusing on Bucket Truck safety and Bobcat training. Throughout the year all Midstate employees partake in different safety training focused on many different topics such as, blood borne pathogens, electrical safety, fire safety, ladder training and much more.

The different safety trainings prepare our employees for real life situations and help them serve as a reminder that an ounce of prevention and safety is worth the effort. We are very proud of the efforts our employees place on safety in the work place and at Midstate Communications our employees are our biggest asset and their safety is our top priority.





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Providing variety & quality services, at an affordable price to the residents and businesses we serve.



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Lifeline-linkup

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Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone & Broadband Subscribers

Midstate Communications is authorized to offer Lifeline assistance to our customers. The Lifeline Universal Service Program is a government supported program available to qualified, low-income consumers and offers a discount for eligible telephone and bundled Internet service meeting the minimum standards. If you are an existing telephone service subscriber receiving the monthly Lifeline discount, you can continue to apply that discount to your home phone voice service. Effective December of 2019, Lifeline discount amount available for voice only services will begin to decrease. If, however, the Lifeline support provided is applied to a bundled service package which includes not only telephone voice service, but also Internet Service you can avoid these discount decreases and continue receiving the maximum discount, currently \$9.25

Moving your monthly Lifeline discount so that it also applies to your current bundled service which includes both voice telephone service and Internet service, will generally require that you agree to not transfer your Lifeline benefit to another provider for twelve months. There are certain exceptions to this requirement.

For further assistance:

Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

The Tribal Lifeline program provides a reduction in monthly charges to telephone or bundled Internet service to customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program. Eligible subscribers may be eligible for additional discounts up to \$25.

The Tribal Link-Up program provides a reduction in connection charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

How to Qualify for a Lifeline Discount:

You must participate in at least one of the following programs to be eligible for a Lifeline Program discount:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veteran's Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
- Income Below the Federal Poverty Guidelines

If residing on tribal land's the following eligibility criteria is also available to be utilized:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution on Indian Reservations
- Head Start

[Income Requirements](#)

[Click Here to Apply](#)

For further assistance:

[Contact Us](#)



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Tribal Lifeline-linkup Assistance

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

Items covered by the Lifeline portion of the program include basic one-party telephone service equipped with touch-tone and toll restriction (if requested). Not covered are second lines, leased equipment, long distance calls, 911 surcharge, the CIF or hearing impaired fund, taxes and optional calling features like Call Waiting and Caller ID.

For further assistance:

[Contact Us](#)

Linkup

Provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone subscriber.

The reduction is up to 100% of the cost associated up to \$100.

Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

Those qualifying for Enhanced Lifeline Program will also qualify for the Link-Up Program which provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

For further assistance:[Contact Us](#)**Eligibility**

Applicants must live on tribal lands and participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to qualify:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- BIA General Assistance Programs
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (Meeting Income Test)
- National School Lunch Program
- Income-Based Criterion (income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines)

**** Participating members and members of the qualified member's household MUST:**

1. Be in good standing as a member of the Midstate Communications Cooperative.
2. Be current in all payments to Midstate Communications. Customers will be approved on an individual basis upon receipt of properly filed forms.

"Tribal Land" for purposes of the Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Programs includes the BIA definitions of "reservation." The term "reservation" means any federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or Colony, and Indian Allotments.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

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Central Dakota Times
PO Box 125
Chamberlain, SD 57325

Invoice

Date 9/30/2016
Invoice # 41967

Bill To
MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS
PO BOX 48
KIMBALL, SD 57355

Ship To
MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS
PO BOX 48
KIMBALL, SD 57355

P.O. #
Terms Net 30

APPROVED FOR PAYMENT
DATE 10-5-16
BY KT

Ship Date 9/30/2016
Due Date 10/30/2016
Other

Item	Description	INCHES	QUANTITY	Price	Amount
SUBSCRIPTI...	ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION FOR KIMBALL LOCATION			45.00	45.00
DISPLAY	SEPTEMBER 21, 2016, 24 1/2" LIFELINE SERVICE DISPLAY AD		24.5	6.25	153.13
DISPLAY	SEPTEMBER 21, 2016, 14" 64TH ANNUAL MEETING DISPLAY AD		14	6.25	87.50
DISPLAY	SEPTEMBER 21, 2016, 3" RING UP A VICTORY/CROW CREEK HOMECOMING DISPLAY AD		3	6.25	18.75
DISPLAY	SEPTEMBER 28, 2016, 14" 64TH ANNUAL MEETING DISPLAY AD		14	6.25	87.50
DISPLAY	SEPTEMBER 28, 2016, 3" CHAMBERLAIN HOMECOMING DISPLAY AD		3	6.25	18.75
DISPLAY	SEPTEMBER 28, 2016, 3" KIMBALL/WHITE LAKE HOMECOMING DISPLAY AD		3	6.25	18.75
Subtotal					\$429.38
Sales Tax (6.5%)					\$2.93
Total					\$432.31
Payments/Credits					\$0.00
Balance Due					\$432.31

Central Dakota Times
cdt@midstatesd.net

605-234-0266
Fax 605-234-1266

RECEIVED
SEP 30 2016

MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

V/N 1004
AIC
6728.2-W = 47.93
60623.32-W = 153.13
6722.1-W = 175.45
67220-W = 56.25
Sub 116line Annual meeting

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota

ss.

County of Brule

Debi Ruiz of said county, being first duly sworn, on oath, says: That she is the publisher of *Central Dakota Times*, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Chamberlain, in said County of Brule and State of South Dakota; that she 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 Brule and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice and that the Affordable Phone Service

With Lifeline Service Through
Midstate Communications

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 week(s) to wit:

September 2, 2016; _____, 20____;
_____, 20____; _____, 20____;
_____, 20____; _____, 20____.

That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice inures to the sole benefit of the publisher or publishers; 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:

\$ 153.13

Signed: Debi Ruiz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day

of September, 2016

Janet L. Petrak
Notary Public In and For The County of Brule,
South Dakota

JANET L. PETRAK
Notary Public
SEAL
South Dakota

My commission expires June 5, 2022.

Affordable Phone Service With Lifeline Service Through Midstate Communications

Midstate Communications provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service - \$21.95/Month

Single Party Business Service - \$27.95/Month*

Single Party Business Service - \$30/Month*

*Single party business service monthly fee is determined by availability and location.

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 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)

A subscriber who lives on tribal lands and is an eligible resident of tribal lands is eligible for tribal Lifeline service if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following tribal-specific federal assistance programs - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance For Needy Families; head start (if income eligibility criteria are met) or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Midstate Communications' 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 Midstate's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Midstate's office at 605-778-6221.



P.O. Box 48
Kimball, SD
57355

www.midstatead.net



September 12, 2016

000309 1 SP 0.465 NoTray



G1 : 309

ZENA MCDONALD

PO BOX 266

KIMBALL, SD 57355-0266

Dear Lifeline Customer,

Under the Federal Communications Commission's rules, existing Lifeline customers are required to annually recertify their continued eligibility for Lifeline service.

Please complete the enclosed Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification Form and return it to our office by September 26, 2016.

Failure to return the Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification Form or failure to provide all of the information requested on the form will result in de-enrollment from the Lifeline program pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.405(e)(4) and loss of the monthly Lifeline credit that appears on your billing statement.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 605-778-6221.

Sincerely,

Midstate Communications

Encl.



SECOND NOTICE

October 7, 2016

000110 1 SP 0.465 NoTray



GI:110

ZENA MCDONALD

PO BOX 266

KIMBALL, SD 57355-0266

Dear Lifeline Customer,

Under the Federal Communications Commission's rules, existing Lifeline customers are required to annually recertify their continued eligibility for Lifeline service.

Please complete the enclosed Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification Form and return it to our office by October 24, 2016.

Failure to return the Lifeline Assistance Re-Certification Form or failure to provide all of the information requested on the form will result in de-enrollment from the Lifeline program pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.405(e)(4) and loss of the monthly Lifeline credit that appears on your billing statement.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 605-778-6221.

Sincerely,

Midstate Communications

Encl.



4/6/2016

000001 1 AV 0.391 T1



TERRY & CAROL QUILT

PO BOX 12

6 FORT THOMPSON, SD 57339-0012

Dear Customer:

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requires that we notify our customers on an annual basis of the Lifeline Link-up Assistance program. We have enclosed the paperwork explaining eligibility for this program as well as the application. Please review this information and if you qualify for the assistance please complete the application and the consent form and return it to us with the documentation of the program you are participating in. Examples of documentation would be a copy of the food stamp EBT card if you qualify for food stamps, a copy of the Medicaid card in your name or a copy of the fuel assistance letter if you qualify for the Home Energy Assistance program. Each program has a document of proof that we would need to see as verification that you are eligible.

If you have questions about Lifeline or Link-up, the application form or your telephone service, please contact us at 778-6221 or 234-8000 for more information.

Sincerely,
MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Mark D. Benton
General Manager

MDB/jt

Enclosures