### SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH **ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2018**

Company:

ITC (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 within 1st 30 days of service.\* (See attached letter.)
- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
- Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. www.itc-web.com
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe):

Listed on PUC website

<sup>\*</sup>Required

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (FKA SSTELECOM, Inc.) is designated as the "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

ITC provides the supported services -- voice telephony service and broadband Internet access service – throughout its designated service area. These supported services include:

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- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge;
- Access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in XYZ's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems.; and
- Broadband Internet access service which includes the capability to send data to and receive data from the Internet, but excludes dial-up service.

Voice telephony service is provided at rates which start at \$22.50 per month for residential customers and \$22.50 per month for business line customers. Broadband Internet access service is provided at rates which start at \$54.95 per month for residential customers and \$54.95 per month for business customers. ITC would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for voice and broadband for your area upon request.

ITC also offers qualified customers Lifeline service. Lifeline is a non-transferable, federal benefit that makes monthly voice or broadband service more affordable. The program is limited to one discount per household. Eligible households may apply the monthly Lifeline discount to either broadband service (home or wireless) or voice service (home or wireless) but not both. Lifeline customers also have the option to apply the discount to a service bundle, such as home phone and home internet. The Lifeline voice service also includes toll blocking to qualifying customers without charge. The current discount provided under the Company's Lifeline service is \$9.25 per month for each month that the customer qualifies.

A household is eligible for the Lifeline discount if the customer's annual household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. You may also qualify for the Lifeline program if a customer, a dependent, or the customer's household participates in one or more of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit.
- Other Programs for Tribal Lands.

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



# Looking For Students

Eighteen students graduated in May from Mitchell Technical Institute with degrees in telecommunications. About 90 job opportunities await them.

"Last year we graduated 17, and they had 110 job opportunities," said Mike Benjamin, a telecommunications instructor at the Mitchell school.

The pay awaiting graduates of the two-year program is good too. Last year's graduates averaged starting pay of \$18.50 an hour. That's more than double South Dakota's minimum wage of \$8.85 an hour.

As MTI points out on its website, the U.S. Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics list the median annual wage for telecommunications workers as \$47,150.

Good pay and plentiful job choices are expected to remain available in the telecom field for years to come. That's an inviting situation – one that high school students, recent graduates, their parents and other career advisers should keep in mind.

Few other schools in the multi-state region offer telecommunications programs but not many. Employment recruiters from several states routinely pursue MTI graduates. For more information about MTI go to <a href="https://www.mitchelltech.edu/programs/on-campus/engineering-technologies/telecommunications">www.mitchelltech.edu/programs/on-campus/engineering-technologies/telecommunications</a>. To read this full article go to <a href="https://www.sdncommunications.com/blog/mti-telecom-program-offers-students-a-promising-career-path">www.sdncommunications.com/blog/mti-telecom-program-offers-students-a-promising-career-path</a>.

# **Discounts Offered Through Lifeline**

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet.

Eligible customers will get at least \$9.25 toward their bill. You can only use Lifeline for either phone or internet, but not both. Only one Lifeline credit is available per household. Lifeline is designed to ensure service remains affordable to all residents.

Ask ITC for a Lifeline application. You will need the following information to apply: First and last name, address, date of birth, and last four digits of your social security number (or tribal ID number). You should also show at least one of these items: Photo ID, prior year's tax return, social security card, or other document to prove your identity.

You will need to prove that you are eligible for a Lifeline benefit. The person on the official document can be you, your dependent, or a member of your household. You can show a pay stub or tax return to prove your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. You also can show a card or award letter to prove participation in at least one of these programs.

- -Medicaid.
- -Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- -Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA).
- -Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension.
- -Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- -Other Programs for Tribal Lands.

ITC will process your application and may ask you to fill out additional forms. If approved, you will receive your Lifeline discount toward your bill. If you want to apply your discount to an existing service, contact your company.

If you believe you are eligible for Lifeline, stop by the ITC office and fill out an application form or call our office at 1.800.417.8667 for assistance.

## **Get Your Camera!**

ITC is on the lookout for that perfect picture for the cover of our 2019 Phone Book. If you are an amateur photographer, and a member of the Coop,



get your camera ready! The Directory Cover Contest runs from June 1 through September 7.

One of the most important things to consider is the size of the photo. Photos should be at least a 300 resolution or the largest option on your camera.

We are looking for unique photos taken in our service territory - no people, no pets. Choose something suitable for a directory cover.

You can submit up to six photos. We prefer digital photos but will also accept printed ones.

Make sure there are no dates on the photo. Also, provide a brief description of where and when you took the picture.

Another tip is to look at last year's Phone Book. The photo to the left is from 2018. Selecting something different will better your chances.

The winning photo will be featured on the cover of the 2019 ITC Phone Book. The first place winner will receive a \$50 bill credit. We will also award a \$25 bill credit to the second place winner.

Photos can be emailed to photo@ itctel.com. You can also mail them via USPS or drop them at one of our offices. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy at 1.800.417.8667. A complete copy of the Directory Contest rules can be found at www.itc-web.com under "About ITC."



Internet 911

## Social Media Trends

By Lonny Dockendorf, Internet Systems Technician



It's impossible to predict the future of social media, but I wanted to point out some of the current trends you may be missing. Each of these applications does essentially the same thing - share your stories with friends and loved ones - each in a somewhat unique way.

consumer preferences, and opportunities.

<u>Instagram:</u> Instagram is a photo and video-sharing social networking service owned by Facebook. Similar to Facebook or Twitter, everyone who creates an Instagram account has a profile and a news feed. When you post a photo or video, it will be displayed on your profile for others to view.

<u>Snapchat:</u> Snapchat is an Android and iOS app. One of the core concepts of the app is that all pictures, messages, or videos are only available for a short time. With Snapchat, you can quickly send a photo of yourself, use one of the fun filters, and even write a short message. Friends can screen-shot if they want to keep it and reply back with their own photo or message.

<u>WhatsApp</u>: WhatsApp is a popular messaging app that can be used on various platforms, including Android, iPhone, and Windows smartphone, and Mac or Windows PCs. This free app uses your phone's Internet connection to send messages, make calls, or send photos and video files.

**Qzone:** Qzone is a social networking site and blogging platform for self-expression and content. It allows users to write blogs, keep diaries, send photos, listen to music, and watch videos. Qzone is one of the most active communities in the industry.

<u>Weibo:</u> With Weibo, you can find the latest information whether from official news or grassroots' gossip. You can learn about the latest trends you're following in sports, movies, finance, food, and other areas of interest. You can post photos, videos, and texts of your own. You can also manage groups and what you see to keep it relevant.

<u>Tumblr:</u> Tumblr is a micro-blogging and social networking website. You can post texts, photos, quotes, links, music, and videos from your phone or desktop. It is a cross between social networking and a blog. Posts are usually shared in snippets which are much shorter than a typical blog. This site allows users to post explicit content but asks them to tag blogs as adult oriented. Even though everything is public, this app might be one you want to watch out for with your teens.

<u>Flickr:</u> Flickr is an online photo management and sharing app. It's two main goals are to help people make their photos available to people who matter to them and to help organize photos and videos. You can give your friends, and family permission to organize your pics as well. Photos can be private, or you can share them, and they are searchable.

As you can see, there are many new apps out there. Take some time and get familiar with them. You might find some you really like. It's possible that you might even impress the kids in your life with this new knowledge!



ITC University

## **Ideas Welcome**

By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist

It is time for ITC University to take a hiatus. Classes will resume again in September. I would just like to thank everyone who attended the Facebook, Pinterest, or Security classes this winter and spring. I enjoyed teaching each and every one of you!

Now the question is, "What do I teach this fall?" If you have any ideas, please let me know. If you are a business and would like to see more classes geared towards you, please email me that info too. Our only criteria is that it involves the Internet, computers, or TV. To send your thoughts and suggestions, please email to survey@itctel.com.

For those of you who haven't attended a class before, it is a great way to keep up on all the changes happening with Windows, Apple, social media, security, media streaming, and more! The classes are hands-on, informal, and small. These classes are the perfect environment to ask questions and learn.

Thanks again for attending ITC University. If you couldn't make any classes earlier this year, I hope to see you in the fall!



This year ITC will be holding director elections in the following

ctions - Not Too Late!

districts - District One (Castlewood, Clear Lake, Estelline, Goodwin), Two (Astoria, Brandt, Gary, Toronto, White), Four (Brookings, Elkton), and Eight (Bradley, Florence,

Waubay, Webster).

On June 4, a "Notice of Election" will be sent to the members in these districts. Anyone seeking a nomination petition can pick one up after June 4, at the

ITC office in Clear Lake. Petitions must be completed and filed at the headquarters office in Clear Lake on or before June 20, 2018. If the director of that district runs unopposed, the election will be canceled, and members will be notified. Members in the districts where there will be elections will have ballots and bios mailed to them on July 2, 2018. Ballots must be returned to the ITC office by July 20, 2018.

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An election meeting will be held in Clear Lake on July 20, 2018, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM for members who want to cast their ballots in person. A credentials committee will count the mailin ballots on July 27, 2018. If you have any questions, call Todd Morris at 1.800.417.8667.

# How Would You Like \$25?

Sign up for auto-payment during the month of June and get a \$25 credit on your ITC bill. Call 1.800.417.8667 for details.



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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### 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/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

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### 1. About Lifeline

Lifeline is a federal benefit that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service.

#### Rules

If you qualify, your household can get Lifeline for phone or internet service, but not both.

- If you get Lifeline for phone service, you can get the benefit for one mobile phone or one home phone, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone or your home connection, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for bundled phone and internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone bundled service or your home bundled service, but not both.

Your household cannot get Lifeline from more than one phone or internet company.

You are only allowed to get one Lifeline benefit per household, **not per person**. If more than one person in your household gets Lifeline, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

#### What is a household?

A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses (even if they are not related to each other).

### Do not give your benefit to another person

Lifeline is non-transferable. You cannot give your Lifeline benefit to another person, even if they qualify.

#### Be honest on this form

You must give accurate and true information on this form and on all Lifeline-related forms or questionnaires. If you give false or fraudulent information, you will lose your Lifeline benefit (i.e., de-enrollment or being barred from the program) and the United States government can take legal actions against you. This may include (but is not limited to) fines or imprisonment.

### You may need to show other documents

If your phone or internet company is not able to prove you or someone in your household qualify using this form and electronic databases, you may need to show an official document from one of the government qualifying programs or to prove your annual income. You can submit copies of your official documents with this application or wait until your phone or internet company asks you for them. To add them now, include the documents in option 1 or option 2 below:

- 1. If you qualify through a government program: copies of your state ID card and an official document from the programs you are qualifying though (your SNAP card, Medicaid card, etc.)
- 2. If you qualify through your income: copies of your state ID card and pay stubs for 3 consecutive months (or other accepted documents).

Visit lifelinesupport.org to see the full list of accepted documents.

### Apply

To apply for a Lifeline benefit, fill out every section of this form, initial every agreement statement, and sign the last page.

To apply, bring or mail this form to your phone or internet company.







## 2. Your Information

All fields are required unless indicated. Use only CAPITALIZED LETTERS and black ink to fill out this form.

What is your full legal name? The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security Card or State ID. Not a nickname. First Middle (optional) Suffix (optional) Last What is your phone number (if you have one)? What is your date of birth? Day Year Month What is your email address (if you have one)? What are the last 4 numbers of your Social Security Number (SSN)? If you do not have a SSN, what is your Tribal Identification Number? What is the best way to reach you? phone text message What is your home address? (The address where you will get service. Do not use a P.O. Box) Apt., Unit, etc. Street Number and Name State Zip Code Check if you live on Tribal Lands\* Is this a temporary address? No What is your mailing address? (Only fill this out if it is not the same as your home address.) Apt., Unit, etc. Street Number and Name

\*Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma; Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688); Indian allotments; Hawaiian Home Lands—areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, et. seq., as amended; and any land designated as such by the Commission for purposes of this subpart pursuant to the designation process in the FCC's Lifeline rules.

City

Zip Code





## 2. Your Information (continued)

Only fill this section out if you are applying through a child or dependent.

What is their full legal name?		
First		
Widdle (estimal)		Suffix (optional)
	ng til menoral, sulessen i T	Sunix (optional)
Last	berto awaret	Check if they live
		on Tribal Lands*
What are the last 4 numbers of their		
Social Security Number (SSN)?		
If they do not have a SSN, what is their Tribal		
	X	de fort care







## 3. Qualify for Lifeline

Fill out this section to show that you, your dependent, or someone in your household qualifies for Lifeline.

You can qualify through some government assistance programs or through your income (you do not need to qualify through both).

#### Qualify through a government program:

Suppl	emental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)
Suppl	emental Security Income (SSI)
Medic	aid
Feder	al Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
Vetera	ns Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs
al Snac	ific Programs
at Spec	Togianis
	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
ar spec	
	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance

Or

#### Qualify through your income:

(Only fill this out if you do not qualify through a government program.)

Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	Is your income the state and househol (only check yes or no next t	d size?	nan the amount listed for your ze)
	All 48 States & DC (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$16,389	\$20,493	\$18,846 Yes
2	\$22,221	\$27,783	\$25,555.50 Yes
3	\$28,053	\$35,073	\$32,265 Yes
4	\$33,885	\$42,363	\$38,974.50 Yes
5	\$39,717	\$49,653	\$45,684 Yes
6	\$45,549	\$56,943	\$52,393.50 Yes
7	\$51,381	\$64,233	\$59,103 Yes
8	\$57,213	\$71,523	\$65,812.50 Yes
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$5,832	Add \$7,290	Add \$6,709.50 Yes





## 4. Agreement

I agree, under penalty of perjury, to the following statements:

You must initial next to each statement.

old) currently get benefits from the government hold income is 135% or less than the Federal
ral Poverty Guidelines table on this form).
my new address within 30 days.
within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline
es, do not qualify through a government
ore than one Lifeline benefit (including, more , more than one Lifeline telephone service, or nd internet services).
benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, my nefit.
e Program administrator all of the information I nation is meant to help run the Lifeline Progran
tor, I will not be able to get Lifeline benefits.
this form are true and correct to the best of
mation to get Lifeline Program benefits is
de-enrollment, or being barred from the
till qualify at any time. If I need to recertify
ve to respond by the deadline or I will be e benefit will stop.
of Tribal lands, as defined in section 2 of this
Today's Date

### 5. Agent Information

I consent to let USAC contact me at my Lifeline phone number for important reminders and updates to my Lifeline service. Message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to end messages.

Answer only if a sales person submits this form.

First	Last		Middle (optional)	Suffix
What is the agent's	s USAC ID number?	What is th	e agent's date of birt	h?







#### Notice

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Section 54.410 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules requires all Lifeline subscribers to demonstrate their eligibility to receive Lifeline services. This collection of information stems from the Commission's authority under Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.). The data provided in response to this information collection will be used by USAC to verify the applicant's eligibility for Lifeline services.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, between 0.25 and 0.75 hours. Our estimate includes the time to read the questions, look through existing records, gather the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write to the Federal Communications Commission, OMD-PERM, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0819), Washington, D.C. 20554. We also will accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to PRA@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND COMPLETED DATA COLLECTION FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Remember – You are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the Federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. This collection has been assigned an OMB control number of 3060-0819.

The Commission is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect the information we request on this form. If we believe there may be a violation or potential violation of a statute or a Commission regulation, rule, or order, your response may be referred to the Federal, state, or local agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order.

If you do not provide the information we request on this form, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.

The foregoing Notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, P.L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:** The Privacy Act is a law that requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to explain why we are asking individuals for personal information and what we are going to do with this information after we collect it.

Authority: Section 254 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 254), as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254, authorizes the FCC to operate the Lifeline program. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.).

Purpose: We are collecting this personal information so we can verify that you qualify for the Lifeline program and so we can efficiently provide Lifeline services to you. We access, maintain and use your personal information in the manner described in the Lifeline System of Records Notice (SORN), FCC/WCB-1, which we have published in 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

Routine Uses: We may share the personal information you enter into this form with other parties for specific purposes, such as: with contractors that help us operate the Lifeline program; with other federal and state government agencies that help us determine your Lifeline eligibility; with the telecommunications companies that provide you Lifeline service; and with law enforcement and other officials investigating potential violations of Lifeline rules.

A complete listing of the ways we may use your information is published in the Lifeline SORN described in the "Purpose" paragraph of this statement.

Disclosure: You are not required to provide the information we are requesting, but if you do not, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.