



C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority

2019 ANNUAL LIFELINE LETTER

Dear C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority Customer,

Please read this letter carefully.

Individuals who reside on tribal lands and meet the eligibility criteria may qualify for discounts [on the telephone bill] through **Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up programs**. 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.

Tribal Lifeline helps eligible residents of tribal lands save up to \$34.25 on their monthly phone bill. The discount applies to wireline or wireless residential telephone service plans and is limited to one line per household. **Tribal Link Up** provides a one-time discount for the connection or activation charge for new telephone service at the applicant's primary residence. The discount is a 100 percent reduction, up to \$100, of the customary charge to initiation of service (up to \$200) on a deferred schedule, interest free.

Eligible consumers may also be able to sign up for free toll blocking or toll limitation service that either blocks or limits long-distance calls from your phone.

Both programs have eligibility requirements. You may qualify if you, one or more of your dependents, or your household participates in any of the following programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension & Survivors Benefits Programs

-Tribal Specific Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs(BIA) General Assistance
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families(Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

2019 Federal Services Poverty Guidelines	
Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$16,862
2	\$22,829
3	\$28,796
4	\$34,763
5	\$40,730
6	\$46,697
7	\$52,664
8	\$58,631
<i>For each additional person add, \$5,967</i>	

To apply for the Lifeline benefit, you can: (1) apply online by going to the National Verifier consumer portal at CheckLifeline.org and creating an account; (2) you can send an application by mail to Lifeline Support Center, PO Box 7081, London, KY 40742; or (3) you can come to C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority to apply.

Important information

- Not all telephone providers in South Dakota offer the Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up discounts.
- Tribal Lifeline is available on only one line per household. A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals living 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.
- Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up discounts cannot be applied to past due telephone bills.
- It can take up to two months for the discounts to show up on your bill as a credit. You must pay the bill until that time.
- Tribal Link Up will not cover the cost of a phone or wiring your home.
- You must notify C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority when you no longer qualify for the program.

Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up Telephone Assistance Programs

Proof of Eligibility

If you qualify for Tribal Lifeline or Tribal Link Up based on income, you may be asked to provide proof of your income. The following documents are acceptable proof:

- Last year's state, federal or tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
- A Social Security statement of benefits
- A Veterans Administration statement of benefits
- A retirement/pension statement of benefits
- An Unemployment/Worker's Compensation statement of benefits
- A federal or tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information

If the prospective subscriber presents documentation of income that does not cover a full year, such as current pay stubs, the prospective subscriber must present the same type of documentation covering three consecutive months within the previous 12 months.

If you qualify for Tribal Lifeline or Tribal Link Up based on **program-based eligibility**, you may be asked to provide proof of your eligibility. The following documents are acceptable proof:

- The current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying assistance program
- A notice or letter of participation from a qualifying assistance program
- Program participation documents
- An official document demonstrating the prospective subscriber, one or more of the prospective subscriber's dependents or the prospective subscriber's household receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

Sincerely,

C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority