

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2020**

Company:

Address:

Telephone number:

Company contact:

Study Area Code:

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.triotel.net



Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe):

*Required

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, County of Miner: ss.

Carla Poulson of said County and State, being duly sworn, on her oath says: That the Miner County Pioneer is a legal newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Howard, said County and State, by Carla Poulson, and has been such newspaper during the time hereinafter mentioned: and that I, Carla Poulson the undersigned, am publisher of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit, and that the advertisement or notice headed

TrioTel Statements

lifeline

\$25.50

A printed copy of which is hereunto attached, was printed and published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in a supplement, once each week for successive weeks, the first publication being made on the 26 day of Sept 2019.

And the last publication on the day of 20.....

The first publication being made on the day of 20.....

The second publication being made on the day of 20.....

The third publication being made on the day of 20.....

The fourth publication being made on the day of 20.....

The fifth publication being made on the day of 20.....

That said newspaper is a legal newspaper, and has a bona fide circulation of more than two hundred copies weekly, and has been published within the County of Miner, for more than fifty-two successive weeks next prior to the first publication of said notice, and is printed in on office maintained in Howard, South Dakota, the place of publication of said newspaper. That the amount of fees for publication of the annexed notice is \$ 72.25 and solely to the benefit of said publisher; that no agreement or understanding division thereof has been made with any person and that no part there- been agreed to be paid to any person whomever.

ed and sworn to me this 10 day of Oct 2019.

My commission expires the 10 day of Oct 2025.



TrioTel Communications, Inc.

The Lifeline Program is a government assistance program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service and broadband only service that meet minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one service per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension and Survivor Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and recertify their eligibility annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at Checklifeline.org. If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll Blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. To add Toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-238.

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS

COUNTY OF HANSON:)

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, on his oath says: THE ALEXANDRIA HERALD is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Alexandria, Hanson County, South Dakota, by MATT ANDERSON, and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned: that it has a bona fide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly; that it has been published within said county of Hanson in the English language and admitted to the United States mail under the second class mailing privilege for more than one year next prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned, and has been printed during such period and at the present time in part in an office maintained at the said place of a publication: that I, the undersigned, am either the publisher@ or an employee of the said publisher@ of said newspaper and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in the affidavit: that the advertisement headed

Trio Tel

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for one successive weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

The first publication be made on 9-19-19

The second publication on _____

The third publication on _____

The fourth publication on _____

that 14.87 Being the full amount of the fee for publication of the annexed notice, insured solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper, that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof have been made with any other person who-sever, and that said newspaper is a local newspaper under the law of the state of South Dakota.

Matt Anderson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20

day of September 2019

Donna M. Diede

Notary Public, South Dakota



My commission expires 2/10/2022

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and recertify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$14.87 9-19-19c

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

:SS

COUNTY OF HANSON:)

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, on his oath says: THE EMERY ENTERPRISE is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Emery, Hanson County, South Dakota, by MATT ANDERSON, and has been such a newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned: that is has a bona fide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly; that is has been published within said county of Hanson in the English language and admitted to the United States mail under the second class mailing privilege for more than one year next prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned, and has been printed during such period and at the present time in part in an office maintained at the said place of a publication: that I, the undersigned, am either the publisher@ or an employee of the said publisher@ of said newspaper and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in the affidavit: that the advertisement headed

Trio-Tel

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for one(1) successive weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

The first publication be made on 9-19-19

The second publication on _____

The third publication on _____

The fourth publication on _____

that 14.87 Being the full amount of the fee for publication of the annexed notice, insured solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper, that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof have been made with any other person who-sever, and that said newspaper is a local newspaper under the law of the state of South Dakota.

Matt Anderson

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20

day of September 2019

Donna M. Diede

Notary Public, South Dakota

TrioTel

Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and recertify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$14.87

9-19-1tc



My commission expires 2/10/2022

Public Notice

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

9-17



Printer's Affidavit of Publication

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

)SS

COUNTY OF McCOOK)

TROY SCHWANS of said County and State, being first duly sworn on his oath, says THE COUNTRY TRADER is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Salem, McCook County and State of South Dakota, and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that the said newspaper is a legal newspaper, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of McCook for more than fifty-two successive weeks prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and has been printed during said period and at the present time, in whole in an office maintained at said place of publication; and that I, the undersigned, am publisher or employee of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all facts in this affidavit;

that the advertisement headed.....

TrioTel Communications Inc
Lifeline.....

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the newspaper for . . . 1 . . . weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

The first publication being made on

..... 9/17, 2019 .

the second publication on....., 20 . . .

the third publication on....., 20 . . .

the fourth publication on....., 20 . . .

the fifth publication on....., 20 . . .

the sixth publication on....., 20 . . .

and the last publication on....., 20 . . .

that \$ 20.14 . being the full amount of the fees for publication of the annexed notice, insures solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any person; and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this..... 30th

day of..... September....., 2019 .

..... Luann McKillop

Notary Public..... McCook..... County

My commission expires..... 2-16-24

Public Notice

TrioTel Communications, Inc.

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount up to \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

If you have any questions regarding the Lifeline program, please call (800) 234-9473 or visit www.LifelineSupport.org.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available no cost. To add toll blocking, please contact TrioTel at 605-425-2238.

9-19



Printer's Affidavit of Publication

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

)SS

COUNTY OF McCOOK)

TROY SCHWANS of said County and State, being first duly sworn on his oath, says THE SALEM SPECIAL is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Salem, McCook County and State of South Dakota, and has been such newspaper during the times hereinafter mentioned; that the said newspaper is a legal newspaper, that it has a bonafide circulation of more than 200 copies weekly, that it has been published within said County of McCook for more than fifty-two successive weeks prior to the publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned and has been printed during said period and at the present time, in whole in an office maintained at said place of publication; and that I, the undersigned, am publisher or employee of said newspaper, in charge of the advertising department thereof, and have personal knowledge of all facts in this affidavit;

that the advertisement headed.....

Triotel Communications, Inc.
Lifeline

a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was printed and published in the newspaper for . . . 1 . . . weeks; that said notice was published in the issues of said paper on the dates as follows, to wit:

The first publication being made on

9/19 ..20*19*..

the second publication on.....,20 ..

the third publication on.....,20 ..

the fourth publication on.....,20 ..

the fifth publication on.....,20 ..

the sixth publication on.....,20 ..

and the last publication on.....,20 ..

that \$ ~~16.12~~ *16.34* .. being the full amount of the fees for publication of the annexed notice, insures solely to the benefit of the publisher of the said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any person; and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this... *30th* ..

day of... *September* ..20*19*..

Notary Public... *Luann McKillop* .. *McCook* .. County

My commission expires... *2-16-24* ..

Notice to TrioTel Communications, Inc. Customers

Lifeline support is available from TrioTel Communications, Inc. This federal program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telecommunication service.

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service and/or broadband service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Customers are eligible if they, one of their dependents, or their household participate in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension or Survivors Pension

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

TrioTel Communications, Inc.'s services are 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 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.

To apply for this low-income assistance, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238, email heatherk@triotel.com or stop by our office at 330 S. Nebraska St., in Salem, SD.



South Dakota Travel Information

The South Dakota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Highway Patrol provides travelers with a statewide, toll-free phone number for information about weather and road conditions. By dialing 5-1-1, users of cellular and land-based phones receive up-to-date, location specific road and weather information on any Interstate, U.S., or state highway in South Dakota and several adjoining states. Callers can also request road and weather conditions for any route on the South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota state highway systems. Callers outside the state of South Dakota can reach the SD 511 system by calling, toll-free, 866-MYSD511 or 866-697-3511.

Lifeline Program

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of telephone service, bundled telephone-broadband service, and broadband only service that meets minimum standards. Lifeline provides a discount of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers and is non-transferable. Customers can qualify for one discount per household if their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or by participation in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Applicants will be required to provide proof of eligibility and re-certify annually.

Toll blocking service prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available at no cost.

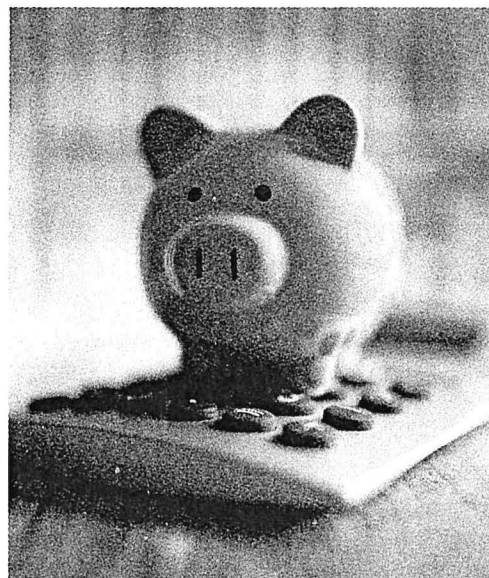
Customers can apply for Lifeline by mail or online at CheckLifeline.org.

National Relief Helplines

Financial Assistance for Families

Bankruptcy Advice: 888-734-2585
Child Support Enforcement: 888-369-0323
Child Care Assistance: 605-773-3165
Credit Score Improvement: 888-537-4633
Debt Collection Complaints: 888-752-3028
Debt Relief: 888-790-1337
Discount Prescriptions: 800-291-1206
ID Theft Recovery/
Protection Hotline: 877-283-8576
Mortgage Relief: 888-770-7312
Student Loan Relief: 888-856-2668
Tax Debt Relief: 888-452-7841

For more information,
visit www.careconnectusa.org.



National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry has been established to offer you a choice about receiving telemarketing calls at home. Registering will stop most telemarketing calls, but it will not stop calls from certain non-profit and political organizations with which you have established a business relationship. Consumers can register their residential telephone numbers, including wireless numbers, on the National Do Not Call Registry by telephone or by Internet at no cost. The number will be on the Do Not Call List the day after registration, however, telemarketers have up to 31 days to remove the number from their call lists. You may register up to three numbers at one time if registering on the Internet. If registering via telephone, you can register only one number at a time and you must call from the telephone number you are registering. A number can be removed from the Do Not Call Registry at any time. To register or remove a number from the Do Not Call Registry, call 1-888-382-1222, for TTY call 1-866-290-4236 or register on the Internet at www.donotcall.gov. Additional information can be obtained at www.donotcall.gov.



LIFELINE

What is Lifeline?

Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service for eligible low-income subscribers.

How do I know if I'm eligible?

To be eligible for Lifeline assistance, you must meet income-based criteria currently defined as at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see below) OR participate in ONE of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

135 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines (As of January 2020)

- 1 person: \$17,226
- 2 people: \$23,274
- 3 people: \$29,322
- 4 people: \$35,370
- 5 people: \$41,418
- 6 people: \$47,466
- 7 people: \$53,514
- 8 people: \$59,562

*For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$6,048 for each additional person.

Lifeline 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.
- 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.

Additional Information

- A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses.
- Lifeline is non-transferable. You cannot give your Lifeline benefit to another person, even if they qualify.



605-425-2238

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