

**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.

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe):

*Required

West River Cooperative Telephone Company
Lifeline & Link-Up Advertising/Outreach
2019-2020

Each month, Lifeline and Link-Up applications were included in the new member packets. All year long, information and applications are made available at our front desk in our central office and on our website (<http://www.sdplains.com/lifeline-and-link-up/>). Link to Lifeline information is available on our Facebook page, under the “About” link (www.facebook.com/WRCTC). All newsletters are provided online at www.wrctc.coop.

June 2019

- Article in newsletter about the Lifeline Program.
- Lifeline information and applications available at Grand Electric’s Annual Meeting.

August 2019

- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Party in Newell.

September 2019

- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Parties in Buffalo, Bison and Lemmon.

October 2019

- Information and applications were made available at West River Cooperative Telephone’s Annual Meeting.
- Provided information and applications at the Tailgate Party in Faith.
- Information and applications were made available at the Co-op Day for Kids.

November 2019

- Information and applications were made available at the Appreciation Luncheons in Red Owl, Vale & Buffalo.

January 2020

- Information and applications were made available for interested individuals at the Vale Ag Show in Vale, SD.

March 2020

- Information and applications were made available at the KBJM Farm & Home Show in Lemmon, SD.

May 2020

- News release was sent out to all local newspapers.
- Information and applications for Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota and Tribal Lands were sent to all surrounding clinics, health nurses, and assisted living centers if they needed them.

June 2020

- Lifeline Program information provided in the newsletter.

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day.



[facebook.com/WRCTC](https://www.facebook.com/WRCTC)

Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 18th year to award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools.

Graduating seniors receiving the \$500 scholarships are:
Bison School District – Shane Collins, son of Tracy & Heidi Collins, Prairie City; Lemmon School District – Dillon Reede, son of Boyce & Melissa Reede, Lemmon; Harding County School District – Coven Kautzman, daughter of Ted & ReAnn Kautzman, Buffalo; Faith School District – Mikenzy Miller, granddaughter of Ed & Karen Miller, Faith (guardians) and Newell School District – Sierra Bonefield, daughter of Mike & Pam Bonefield, Nisland. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an investment in the

economic future of our rural 244-5417 area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students.



Shane Collins



Dillon Reede



Coven Kautzman



Mikenzy Miller



Sierra Bonefield

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Congratulations to these outstanding students. WRCTC and Grand Electric wish you the best of luck!

4th Graders Receive South Dakota Books

WRCTC recently provided a copy of the book entitled *My South Dakota Book - Hometown Snapshots* to each 4th grade student to take home. The book simulates a fun, photographic road trip of 33 South Dakota towns and their 456-6033 interesting landmarks.

You can learn some pretty interesting facts from this book. For example, the petrified wood park in Lemmon is not only the largest in the world, but it took over 4,200 pounds of petrified wood to 244-5919 create the 400-plus structures!

The book was published by SDN Communications out of Sioux Falls, SD of which WRCTC is a member. We hope this book will provide the students with the cultural and historical value of the small communities within this wonderful 375-3681 state and all the attractions they have to offer.



FOUR SEASONS = FOUR \$50 WINNERS!



We are looking for the Four Seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter) for the 2020 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of your favorite person, place or thing! They just need to represent one of the four seasons!

Submit your pictures to reggebo@wrctc.coop or mail them to WRCTC, %Rachel Eggebo, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

Deadline to enter the 2020 Directory Photo Contest is August 16, 2019.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit THREE photos. Photos may also be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. The photos must be in full-color and will not be returned to the customer. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgement to the photographer. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2020 directory and will be awarded \$50. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education and opportunities.

The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services 257-2753 by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both 376-5908 services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband and broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on 456-2931 Tribal lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>.



Securing Your Account

To protect the privacy of information contained in your telephone account, WRCTC is only allowed to discuss account information with the person(s) listed on the account. This includes businesses. We must authenticate you (confirm your identity) before sharing account information. This is done by asking you two questions pertaining to your account that only you, as the account holder, would know.

If the account is listed ONLY in your name or the business' name, you might want to consider adding an authorized user. For instance, if you are a parent or individual who relies 456-2147 on someone else to discuss account changes, payments or any other account data with our company, you will need to have the person's name added to your records as an authorized contact before our customer service representatives are able to assist them.

If you need to add an authorized user to your account, the form can be found on our website, www.wrctc.coop, or you may call our office at 605-244-5213.

(continued on page 4)

New WRCTC Members

Bison, Meadow, Sorum

Rosenau, H. James (West Place) 788-2604

Buffalo

Sever, Jon 375-3084

Lemmon

Johnson, Carol J. 374-6691

Little Elk, Donald, Jr. 374-3429

Sigman, Gerald 374-8991

SECURE PAY

Make a payment on your bill over the phone
using a debit/credit card or check.

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267

HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

(24/7 Support)

SDPlains Help Desk
888-464-9513

Find Your Phone

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Brad Besler, Bison; Jim Wishard, Bison; Peggy Clark, Keldron; Dalton Gebhart, Meadow; Jason Ford, Vale and Randy Oliver, Newell. Hidden in this issue are ten new numbers. If you find YOUR number, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$10 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. New connect numbers do not count. **Deadline is June 22, 2019.**

\$10 bill credit

Lifeline (continued)

How Do I Qualify?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

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

How Tribal Link Up Works?

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE 788-2804 Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally 374-3483 recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at www.wrctc.coop. If you need assistance, please call 777 or 605-244-5213.

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

Happy 4th of July!

facebook.com/WRCTC

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Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 19th year to award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. All scholarship winners were notified this year via phone call, due to covid-19 and the cancellation of awards ceremonies. Alternate winners have been sent a letter by mail.

Graduating seniors receiving the \$500 scholarships are:

Bison School District –
Marleigh Hulm, Daughter of Keith Hulm, Meadow and Carrie and Brent Roth, Bison;

Lemmon School District –
Anna Beer, daughter of Ryan and Jackie Beer, Lemmon;

Harding County School District –
Jessie Collins, daughter of Craig and Joyclyn Mollman, Ludlow and Newell School District – Caleb Mutchler, son of J.D. and Danelle Mutchler, Newell. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the areas we serve.



Marleigh Hulm – Bison



Anna Beer – Lemmon



Jessie Collins – Harding Co.



Caleb Mutchler – Newell

Congratulations to these outstanding students. WRCTC and Grand Electric wish you the best of luck!

Capital Credit Refunds

WRCTC Board of Directors met in late April and approved the retirement of Capital Credits to be disbursed immediately, rather than waiting for the October Annual Meeting. Members can expect to see a bill credit on the June 1st bill if your refund was less than \$150. If your refund was more than \$150, a check was issued and mailed in late May. The COVID-19 pandemic brought additional financial burdens to many of our members; and because of this hardship, the WRCTC Directors approved the retirement of \$750,000 back to you—our members— in capital credits.



The directors and employees of WRCTC hope you are staying healthy and safe during this unforeseen time. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, October, 5, 2020, at WRCTC's annual meeting.

Color Code for Marking Underground Utility Lines	
	Electric
	Gas-Oil Steam
	Communication CATV
	Potable Water
	Irrigation, Reclaimed Water, Slurry Lines
	Sewer
	Temporary Survey Markings
	Proposed Excavation

As the weather warms up and more projects are started outside, make sure to call 811 or (800-)781-7474 before doing any digging. There are multiple underground utility lines that need to be marked before you start your project. Call 811 at least two business days before you plan to start construction. The picture to the left shows the colors that are used to mark the different lines you need to avoid. Remember, calling 811 is mandatory and is a step that can not be skipped. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, call 811 and they will explain the process.



SHOW US YOUR PATRIOTISM!!!



We are looking for **PATRIOTIC** photos for the 2021 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of your favorite person, place or thing! They just need to be patriotic!

Submit your pictures to reggebo@wrctc.coop or mail them to WRCTC, %Rachel Eggebo, PO Box 39, Bison, SD 57620.

Deadline to enter the 2021 Directory Photo Contest is August 17, 2020.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit FOUR photos. Photos may also be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. The photos must be in full-color and will not be returned to the customer. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgment to the photographer. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2021 directory and will be awarded \$100 cash prize for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and stand-alone voice service - will help ensure that low-income consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education and opportunities.

The History of Lifeline

The FCC established the Lifeline program in 1985 to ensure that qualifying low-income consumers could afford phone service and the opportunities and security it provides. Congress supported and strengthened Lifeline in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, requiring that affordable service and advanced communications be available to low-income consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

How Lifeline Works

Lifeline provides a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services of \$9.25 per month for eligible low-income subscribers. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports broadband and broadband-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

To participate in the program, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs. You can see if you are eligible with the Lifeline Eligibility Pre-Screening Tool on the Universal Service Administrative website at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>.



Securing Your Account

To protect the privacy of information contained in your telephone account, WRCTC is only allowed to discuss account information with the person(s) listed on the account. This includes businesses. We must authenticate you (confirm your identity) before sharing account information. This is done by asking you two questions pertaining to your account that only you, as the account holder, would know. We can add more security to your account by adding personal questions that only the authorized users would know.

If the account is listed ONLY in your name or the business' name, you might want to consider adding an authorized user. For instance, if you are a parent or individual who relies on someone else to discuss account changes, payments or any other account data with our company, you will need to have the person's name added to your records as an authorized contact before our customer service representatives are able to assist them.

If you need to add an authorized user to your account, the form can be found on our website, www.wrctc.coop, or you may call our office at 605-244-5213.

(continued on page 4)

New WRCTC Members

Buffalo

Johnson, Stuart DR 375-3528

Lemmon

Butler, James 374-8960

Wilmot, Harold 374-7124

SECURE PAY

Make a payment on your bill over the phone
using a debit/credit card or check.

Available 24/7!

844-252-5267

INTERNET HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

(24/7 Support)

SDPlains Help Desk
888-464-9513

Find Your Phone

Ten telephone numbers were hidden in last month's newsletter. Those members who hunted and found their number were: Duane Buckmeier, Prairie City; Thomas (Tucker) Kane, Thunder Hawk; Keith Morell, Vale; Jane Denzin, Buffalo and Deloris Sperle, Buffalo. Hidden in this issue are ten new numbers. If you find YOUR number, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$10 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. New connect numbers do not count. **Deadline is June 19, 2020.**

\$10 bill credit

Lifeline (continued)

How Do I Qualify?

The following is a list of assistance programs that qualify a participant for Lifeline:

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

How Tribal Link Up Works?

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee. Enhanced benefits are provided to low-income consumers who live on a federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation.

Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month. You can get Tribal Lifeline if you live on Tribal lands. Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions, Hawaiian Home Lands, or Indian Allotments. The following is a list of Tribal assistance programs that also qualify a participant for Lifeline:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at www.wrctc.coop.

Submit applications to:

USAC
Lifeline Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY
801 Coleman Avenue
PO Box 39
Bison, SD 57620
Phone (605) 244-5213

"Date"

"Customer"

"Address"

"City", SD "Zip Code"

Dear "Customer":

Under the Federal Communications Commission's rules, existing Lifeline customers are required to recertify annually that they remain eligible to participate in the program and that no one else in their household receives Lifeline supported phone service from West River Cooperative Telephone Company or any other phone service provider.

Please complete the enclosed Lifeline Program Annual Recertification Form and return it to our office or mail it to our consultant in the envelope provided by "Date". For this recertification process, the completed recertification form is the only document needed – documentation of program participation or income eligibility is not required.

Failure to return the Recertification Form or 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 will lead to an increase in your monthly phone service bill.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (605) 244-5213.

Sincerely,
West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Sara Hauser
Encl.



West River Cooperative Telephone Company
PO Box 39
Bison, SD 57620

Lifeline provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone and internet service. **Note:** One discount is available for either telephone or internet services but not both.

What type of discount is available?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service or internet service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month. Eligible residents of Tribal Lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support.

Link Up for Tribal Lands reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 100% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$100. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

Toll Limitation Service (TLS) support is also available to all eligible Lifeline consumers. TLS allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

How do I know whether I am eligible?

Eligibility for Lifeline or Link Up for Tribal Lands has a set of federal eligibility criteria to meet for the federal program. An individual is eligible if he or she or a dependent person in their household participates in one of the following programs or if your household income doesn't exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veteran's Pension or Survivors Pension

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 Tribal Lands qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed above, have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, or participate in one of these programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance
- Tribal Head Start (income eligible)
- Tribal TANF
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

How do I apply to receive Lifeline and Link Up?

To apply for Lifeline and Link Up (Tribal Lands only) discounts please contact:

West River Cooperative Telephone Company
PO Box 39
Bison, SD 57620
605-224-5213

M A Y 2020
N E W S R E L E A S E

WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY
PO BOX 39
BISON, SD 57620
605-244-5213
CONTACT: Rachel Eggebo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on qualifying monthly telephone or broadband service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline lowers the cost of basic monthly local qualifying telephone or broadband service (at least 20/3 Mbps). An eligible customer will receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a voice or broadband service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

If a qualifying consumer resides on federally-recognized Tribal lands, the consumer is also eligible for an additional \$25 Tribal benefit.

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. For service initiation charges of up to \$200, Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay

the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free for up to one year. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

TRIBAL-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Application. For more information, log-on to <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>, contact the Lifeline Support Center at 1-800-234-9473, call your local telephone company, state Public Utility Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

Perkins County voters can cast ballots in Lemmon or Bison only or vote absentee

By Beth Hulm

Due to the need to provide a safer environment for Perkins County voters during the existing pandemic, county commissioners have authorized only two polling places for the June 2 primary election. Voters may also vote by absentee ballot.

Several usual polling places will not be available for this year's primary election. Perkins County voters who generally vote at Lodgepole, Indian Creek, Prairie City, Faith and Zeona will need to go to the Bentley Memorial Building in Bison where polls will be set up for each of those precincts in addition to the Bison precinct. Voters for all four Lemmon precincts may cast their ballots in the Beeler Community Center.

An expectation that there will be heavy absentee voting this year and because of the skittishness of some election workers to sit at the polls caused a recent conversation amongst county commissioners. The result of that conversation was to decrease the number of polling places. County Finance Officer Sylvia Chapman said that the county wants to support the health and safety of not only poll workers but also election staff and voters in

general.

There will be precautions taken at both polling places to insure social distancing and sanitization.

Absentee voting by mail is strongly encouraged for all voters. Chapman's office recently mailed absentee ballot applications to every registered voter in Perkins County. Those who choose to apply for absentee ballots by mail need to do so by June 1 at 5:00 p.m.

Those applications must either be notarized or accompanied by a copy of the voter's driver's license or other recognized proof of identity. The identification may be emailed to pkaud@sdplains.com or texted to 605-490-9430 but the application itself must be mailed back. It's important that it be signed!

Once the application is received in the county office, a ballot will be mailed. Voters may also print their own application from the county's website: www.perkinscounty.org or from the Secretary of State's office: <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/asset/AbsenteeBallotApplicationFillable.pdf>.

Once the application is received in the county office, a ballot will be mailed out. Swift action is encouraged to avoid mailing delays.

All absentee ballots by mail must be received by the county office no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day to be counted with on-site ballots.

The county finance office will remain open for anyone who wishes to vote an absentee ballot in person. Please make an appointment to do by calling 605-244-5624.

Perkins County Election Polling Places

Lemmon -
Beeler Community Center
 203 Main Avenue, Lemmon, SD
 Precinct 1 (Lemmon)
 Precinct 3 (Lemmon)
 Precinct 4 (Lemmon Rural)
 Precinct 5 (Lemmon Rural)

Bison -
Bentley Memorial Building
 400 West Carr Street, Bison, SD

Precinct 2 (Lodgepole)
 Precinct 6 (Indian Creek)
 Precinct 7 (Prairie City)
 Precinct 8 (Faith)
 Precinct 9 (Zeona)
 Precinct 12 (Bison)

Grand Electric Postpones Annual Meeting New Tentative Date: Friday, October 9, 2020

When the new year rang in for 2020, Grand Electric in Bison, SD didn't anticipate the additional measures they would be taking to ensure the safety of their members, directors and employees due to COVID-19. This includes postponing the Grand Electric annual meeting that was scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2020.

With the Governor of South Dakota advising to avoid public gatherings over ten people in an enclosed area, the Board of Directors and staff have determined it would be in the best interest of members and employees to postpone the annual meeting until later in the year. The new tentative date for the Grand Electric annual meeting has been set for Friday, October 9, 2020.

Even though COVID-19 has delayed the annual meeting, that does not mean there will be a delay in your capital credits! While Grand Electric didn't ex-

pect this, they want you to know they are here for you. This pandemic brought additional financial burden to many of their members; and because of this hardship, the Grand Electric Board of Directors approved retiring more capital credits than in previous years to help alleviate some of the strain. Grand Electric is retiring \$750,000 back to members in capital credits. In fact, if you haven't already received your capital credits return, you will soon! All capital credit checks over \$150 will be mailed out in the May, and for those under \$150, a credit will be applied to your June 1st billing statement.

The directors and employees of Grand Electric hope you are staying healthy and safe during this unforeseen time, and they look forward to seeing you on Friday, October, 9, 2020, at Grand Electric's annual meeting.

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Background

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on qualifying monthly telephone or broadband service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline is supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline lowers the cost of basic monthly local qualifying telephone or broadband service (at least 20/3 Mbps). An eligible customer will receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Lifeline service per household. That is, eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a voice or broadband service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline applicants

may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

If a qualifying consumer resides on federally-recognized Tribal lands, the consumer is also eligible for an additional \$25 Tribal benefit.

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. For service initiation charges of up to \$200, Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free for up to one year. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Eligible consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You

must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

TRIBAL-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Application. For more information, log-on to <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline>, contact the Lifeline Support Center at 1-800-234-9473, call your local telephone company, state Public Utility Commission, or the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

Got aphids? You can control them with a strong blast of water from the hose or with insecticidal soap. But here's another suggestion, one that's a lot more fun; get some tape! Wrap a wide strip of tape around your hand, sticky side out, and pat the leaves of plants infested with aphids. Concentrate on the undersides of leaves, because that's where the little buggers like to hide.

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Lifeline Program Application Form



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

You will need to show your phone or internet company an official document from one of the government qualifying programs or prove your annual income. Please provide copies of your official documents with this application. 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 program you are qualifying through (your SNAP card, Medicaid card, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit letter, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) award letter, or other accepted documents).
2. If you qualify through your income: copies of your state ID card and your last state, federal, or Tribal tax return, pay stubs for 3 consecutive months, or other accepted documents. Visit lifelinesupport.org to see the full list of accepted documents.

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

Apply

To apply for a Lifeline benefit, fill out the required sections of this form, initial every agreement statement, and sign on page 6.

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

Lifeline Program Application Form



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?**

Month Day Year

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?

email phone text message mail

Lifeline Program Application Form



2. Your Information (continued)

*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.

What is your home address? (The address where you will get service. Do not use a P.O. Box)

Street Number and Name

Apt., Unit, etc. City

State Zip Code

Is this a temporary address? Yes No **Check if you live on Tribal Lands***

What is your mailing address? (Only fill this out if it is not the same as your home address.)

Street Number and Name

Apt., Unit, etc. City

State Zip Code

Lifeline Program Application Form



2. Your Information (continued)

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

Check if you are qualifying through a child or dependent in your household. If so, answer the following questions:

What is their full legal name?

First

Middle (optional)

Suffix (optional)

Last

What is their date of birth?

Month

Day

Year

What are the last 4 numbers of their Social Security Number (SSN)?

If they do not have a SSN, what is their Tribal Identification Number?

Lifeline Program Application Form



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:

Check all programs that you or someone in your household have:

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

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 same or less than the amount listed for your state and household size? (only check yes or no next to your household size)				
	All 48 States & DC (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii	Yes	No
1	\$17,226	\$21,533	\$19,818	Yes	No
2	\$23,274	\$29,093	\$26,771	Yes	No
3	\$29,322	\$36,653	\$33,723	Yes	No
4	\$35,370	\$44,213	\$40,676	Yes	No
5	\$41,418	\$51,773	\$47,628	Yes	No
6	\$47,466	\$59,333	\$54,581	Yes	No
7	\$53,514	\$66,893	\$61,533	Yes	No
8	\$59,562	\$74,453	\$68,486	Yes	No
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$6,048	Add \$7,560	Add \$6,953	Yes	No

135% of the 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines
*The Federal Poverty Guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.

Lifeline Program Application Form



4. Agreement

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

You must initial next to each statement.

I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get benefits from the government program(s) listed on this form or my annual household income is 135% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Federal Poverty Guidelines table on this form).

Initial

I agree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address within 30 days.

Initial

I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline anymore, including:

Initial

- 1) I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a government program or income anymore.
- 2) Either I or someone in my household gets more than one Lifeline benefit (including, more than one Lifeline broadband internet service, more than one Lifeline telephone service, or both Lifeline telephone and Lifeline broadband internet services).

I know that my household can only get one Lifeline benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not getting more than one Lifeline benefit.

Initial

I agree that my service provider can give the Lifeline Program administrator all of the information I am giving on this form. I understand that this information is meant to help run the Lifeline Program and that if I do not let them give it to the Administrator, I will not be able to get Lifeline benefits.

Initial

All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Initial

I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get Lifeline Program benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, jail time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program.

Initial

My service provider may have to check whether I still qualify at any time. If I need to recertify (renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respond by the deadline or I will be removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline benefit will stop.

Initial

I was truthful about whether or not I am a resident of Tribal lands, as defined in section 2 of this form.

Initial

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.

Signature	Today's Date
------------------	---------------------

Lifeline Program Application Form



5. Agent Information

*Answer only if a sales
person submits this form.*

What is the agent's 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 the agent's ID number? **What is the agent's date of birth?**

Month Day Year

Lifeline Program Application Form



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.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY