# SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2021

Company:	West River Cooperative Telephone Compa
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Address: 801 Coleman Avenue

Bison, SD 57620

Telephone number:

Company contact: Kay Grinsteinner

Study Area Code: 391689

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

$\checkmark$	Advertise in medi advertisement(s).	a of general distribution.*(See attached )
$\checkmark$	-	and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ hin 1 <sup>st</sup> 30 days of service.*(See attached letter.)
$\checkmark$	Company's Lifelir	ne/Tribal Link Up information in directory.
$\checkmark$		ne/Tribal Link Up information available on Company /ww.sdplains.com/lifeline-and-link-up
$\checkmark$	Company's inform	nation posted on USAC website.
$\checkmark$	Other (describe):	See attached activity/outreach summary.
*Required		

### West River Cooperative Telephone Company Lifeline & Link-Up Advertising/Outreach 2020-2021

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 (<u>http://www.sdplains.com/lifeline-and-link-up/</u>). Link to Lifeline information is available on our Facebook page, under the "About" link (<u>www.facebook.com/WRCTC</u>). All newsletters are provided online at <u>www.wrctc.coop</u>.

<u>May 2020</u>

- 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

• Article in newsletter about the Lifeline Program.

January 2021

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

March 2021

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

May 2021

- 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 2021

• Lifeline Program information provided in the newsletter.



West River Cooperative Telephone Company 801 Coleman Avenue PO Box 39 Bison, SD 57620

605.244.5213 westriver@sdplains.com www.wrctc.coop www.facebook.com/WRCTC

December 18, 2020

Charles W. Murphy, Chairman Standing Rock Sioux Tribe PO Box D Fort Yates, ND 58539

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as part of its 2012 Order reforming the federal universal service mechanisms related to telecommunications and information services, adopted new "Trial Engagement" provisions that are intended to improve communications and foster a greater understanding between service providers and Tribal entities of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain telecommunication services on Tribal lands. *See* FCC Public Notice, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, DA 12-1165, released July 19, 2012.

Pursuant to the FCC's rules related to Tribal Engagement, West River Cooperative Telephone Company would, as soon as possible, like to begin discussions with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in a manner consistent with the FCC rules. Accordingly, we would request a meeting with the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting will, generally, be to exchange information related to the deployment and provisioning of communications services on Tribal lands. While West River Cooperative Telephone Company leaves to your discretion attendees from the tribe at this requested meeting, it is important that at least some of the tribal representative attendees at the meeting are "decision-makers," as this can change the perspectives of the discussions. West River Cooperative Telephone Company asks that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe provide a name and contact information for a Tribal representative who can assist in scheduling and arranging a meeting with the appropriate Tribal government staff and leaders to discuss deployment and sustainability of telecommunications services on Tribal lands. This information may be provided to the undersigned by calling (605) 244-5213, or through an email directed to cnash@wrctc.coop. Please respond by December 31, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We look forward to discussing these important matters with you.

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Sincerely,

Colle Nash, General Manager

CN:pk



West River Cooperative Telephone Company 801 Coleman Avenue PO Box 39 Bison, SD 57620

605.244.5213 westriver@sdplains.com www.wrctc.coop www.facebook.com/WRCTC

December 18, 2020

Mr. Kevin Keckler, Sr., Tribal Chairman Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Government PO Box 590 Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Keckler:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), as part of its 2012 Order reforming the federal universal service mechanisms related to telecommunications and information services, adopted new "Trial Engagement" provisions that are intended to improve communications and foster a greater understanding between service providers and Tribal entities of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain telecommunication services on Tribal lands. *See* FCC Public Notice, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Wireline Competition Bureau Issue Further Guidance on Tribal Engagement Obligation Provisions of the Connect America Fund, DA 12-1165, released July 19, 2012.

Pursuant to the FCC's rules related to Tribal Engagement, West River Cooperative Telephone Company would, as soon as possible, like to begin discussions with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in a manner consistent with the FCC rules. Accordingly, we would request a meeting with the Tribe. The purpose of this meeting will, generally, be to exchange information related to the deployment and provisioning of communications services on Tribal lands. While West River Cooperative Telephone Company leaves to your discretion attendees from the tribe at this requested meeting, it is important that at least some of the tribal representative attendees at the meeting are "decision-makers," as this can change the perspectives of the discussions. West River Cooperative Telephone Company asks that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe provide a name and contact information for a Tribal representative who can assist in scheduling and arranging a meeting with the appropriate Tribal government staff and leaders to discuss deployment and sustainability of telecommunications services on Tribal lands. This information may be provided to the undersigned by calling (605) 244-5213, or through an email directed to cnash@wrctc.coop. Please respond by December 31, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. We look forward to discussing these important matters with you.

Sincerely,

Colle Nash, General Manager

CN:pk

### 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,



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 RULDS: The photo must be an original taken by a VRGTC member. If the photo contains a persaw who is highly reception that is a character as witness a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the outpices' studer 18 years of age, a parent/galantian must give pictor is excisiving the more, Each cautomer may within FOUR photos. Photos may take to a compater dize or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. The photos must be in full-color and will not be returned to the customers, Solor neural neurors. Each cautomer may take the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cores: or use as WRCTC director and will not be returned to the bettegrapher. The whinners will see their photo on the front arver of the 2021 directory and will be awarded \$100 costs prize for far phase. Solity wourd place and \$25 for this place. Employees and Directors were 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 broadbandvoice 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.

(continued on page 4)

### 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.

### **New WRCTC Members**

<u>Buffalo</u> 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, Prarire 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.** 

### 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)
- · Head Start (It income englosity 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 <u>www.wrctc.coop</u>. Submit applications to:

#### USAC

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

4 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Friday, July 3rd in

July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. July 3rd in have been sent a letter by mail. Graduating seniors receiving the \$500 scholarships are: Bison School District –



facebook.com/WRCTC

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#### 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

Marleigh Hulm, Daughter of

Carrie and Brent Roth, Bison;

Keith Hulm, Meadow and

West River Cooperative

Telephone Company (WRCTC)

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.

# **Calling on You**

June 2020

# **Scholarship Winners**



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!



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# Lifeline: affordable telephone service for income-eligible consumers

### Background

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Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides dis-counts on qualifying monthly telephone or broadband service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they have the op-. portunities 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 25/3 Mbps). An eligible customer with broadband internet will receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month. Eligible voice only subscribers will receive a. discount of \$5.25 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

part of a separate household.

Lifeline can also include Toll Limitation Service, which enables a telephone subscriber to trition Assistance Program (Food limit the amount of long distance. Stamps or SNAP) calls that can be made from a telephone.

If a qualifying consumer resides on federally-recognized ing Assistance (Section 8) 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, interestfree 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

enrolling in the program that any below 135% of the federal Povother Lifeline recipients residing erty Guidelines or participate in at their residential address are one of the following assistance programs:

Medicaid

Supplemental Nu-

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Federal Public Hous-

Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

TRIBAL-SPECIFIC PRO-GRAMS:

Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance

**Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy** Families (TTANF)

**Food Distribution Pro-**Indian on gram **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.

# We have a limited supply of the COVID vaccine available.

All individuals ages 12 and older are now eligible to receive

# Lifeline Program Application Form



**Universal Service** Administrative Co.

### 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 FCC'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





5.	
Agent	
Information	
Answer only if a sales	1

Answer only if a sales person submits this form.

What is the agent's ID number?	What is the agent	's date of birth?
ast		
Middle (optional)		Suffix (optional)
First		

# Lifeline Program Application Form



OMB APPROVAL EDITION 3060-0819



4. Agreement Jagree, under penalty of perjury, to the following statements: You must initial next to each statement.	Initial       program(s) listed on this form or my annual how         Initial       Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Fee         Initial       I agree that if I move I will give my service provide anymore, including:         Initial       I understand that I have to tell my service provide anymore, including:         Initial       1) I, or the person in my household that qual program or income anymore.         2) Either I or someone in my household gets	der my new address within 30 days. er within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline lifies, do not qualify through a government more than one Lifeline benefit (including more rice, more than one Lifeline telephone service, or dband internet services).
	Initial for the purposes of applying for and/or receiving if this information is not provided to the Lifeline Lifeline benefits. If the laws of my state or Tribal government may share information about my be Program Administrator. The information shared to help find out if I can get a Lifeline Program be	is form may be collected, used, shared, and retained the Lifeline Program benefit. I understand that Program Administrator, I will not be able to get government require it, I agree that the state or Tribal enefits for a qualifying program with the Lifeline by the state or Tribal government will be used only nefit.
	Initial       of my knowledge.         Initial       I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent in punishable by law and can result in fines, jail tim program.         Initial       My service provider may have to check whether (renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline	ne, de-enrollment, or being barred from the r I still qualify at any time. If I need to recertify have to respond by the deadline or I will be
	I was truthful about whether or not I am a resid this form. Initial	lent of Tribal lands, as defined in section 2 of Today's Date

3.

### REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

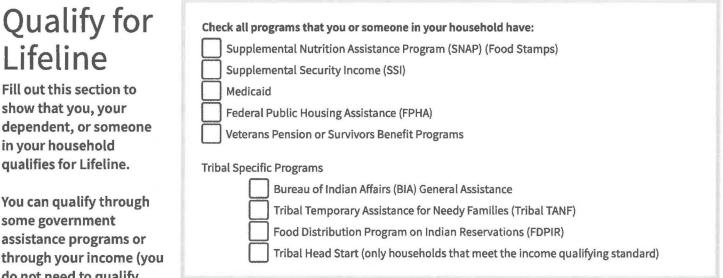
OMB APPROVAL EDITION 3060-0819

**Universal Service** 

Administrative Co.



# Qualify through a government program:



### 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)	many people live in your state and household size?						
	All 48 States, DC, and Territories (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii				
1	\$17,388	\$21,722	\$20,007	Yes	No No		
2	\$23,517	\$29,390	\$27,054	Yes	No		
3	\$29,646	\$37,058	\$34,101	Yes	No		
4	\$35,775	\$44,726	\$41,148	Yes	No		
5	\$41,904	\$52,394	\$48,195	Yes	No		
6	\$48,033	\$60,062	\$55,242	Yes	No		
7	\$54,162	\$67,730	\$62,289	Yes	No No		
8	\$60,291	\$75,398	\$69,336	Yes	No		
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$6,129	Add \$7,668	Add \$7,047	Yes	No		

Or

135% of the 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines

\*The Federal Poverty Guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.

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).

### Page 5 of 8

Lifeline Program

**Application Form** 

OMB APPROVAL EDITION 3060-0819



Universal Service Administrative Co.

# 2c. Your Information (continued)

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

			_	ques	tions												
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OMB APPROVAL EDITION 3060-0819

# Lifeline Program Application Form



# 2b. 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; Hawailan Home Lands—areas held in trust for Native Hawailans 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 FCC for purposes of this subpart pursuant to the designation process in the FCC's Lifeline rules.

Street Number a	and Name								
Apt., Unit, etc.		City							
State	Zip Code	and the supervised							
s this a tem	porary address	? 🗌 Yes	No	Che	eck if you	ı live on	Tribal	lands*	
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What is your	mailing addre	ss? (Only fill f	Immund						

# Lifeline Program Application Form



# 2a. 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 Car	d or State ID. Not a nickname	
The name you use on oncial documents, the your social security can	i of state ib. Not a flickname.	
irst		
Viddle (optional)		Suffix (optional)
ast		
What is your phone number (if you have one)?	What is your date of bi	th?
	Month Day	Year
Vhat is your email address (if you have one)?		
What are the last 4 numbers of your Social Security Nu	mbor /66NI)2	
f you do not have a SSN, what is your Tribal Identification Number?		
What is the best way to reach you?		
email phone* text messag	e* 🗌 mail	

\*If I selected the phone or text option, I consent to let USAC contact me at my Lifeline phone number for important reminders and updates to my Lifeline service.

If I selected the text message option, message and data rates may apply.

Text STOP to end messages.

# Lifeline Program Application Form



Universal Service Administrative Co.

# 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 the Lifeline Program Administrator is not able to validate that you or someone in your household qualify using this form and electronic databases, you may need to provide an official document from one of the government qualifying programs or documentation that proves your annual income. You can submit copies of your official documents with this application or wait until the Lifeline Program Administrator asks you for them. To add them now, include the documents in option 1 or option 2 below:

- If you qualify through a government program, provide a copy of a document such as an approval letter or benefit letter with the name of the person in your household who qualifies, name of the program, and issue date within the past 12 months or future expiration date.
- If you qualify through your income, provide a copy of the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return or a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub for 3 consecutive months (or other accepted documents).

Visit lifelinesupport.org to see all acceptable document guidelines.

# Apply

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

Mail the form to this address: USAC Lifeline Support Center P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742

according to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid

USDA-RU	JS		This data will be used by RUS to review your financial situation. Yo	our response is required by 7 U	S.C. 901 et sea.			
	-		and, subject to federal laws and regulations regarding confidential BORROWER NAME					
OPERATING RE			West River Cooperative Telephone Company					
TELECOMMUNICATIO	NS DOKKOWEN		(Prepared with Audited Data)					
NSTRUCTIONS-Submit report to RUS within 30 d			PERIOD ENDING	BORROWER DESIGNATI	DN			
or detailed instructions, see RUS Bulletin 1744-2.	Report in whole dollar		December 2020					
to the best of our knowledge and belief. ALL INSURANCE REQUIRED BY RENEWALS HAVE BEEN OBTAIN	7 CFR PART 1788 NED FOR ALL PO	dance with the acc , CHAPTER XVI LICIES.	ERTIFICATION ounts and other records of the system and reflect the stu I, RUS, WAS IN FORCE DURING THE REPORTI PURSUANT TO PART 1788 OF 7CFR CHAPTER	NG PERIOD AND				
All of the obligations under the RUS loan du have been fulfilled in all material respects.	ocuments	(Check on	a of the following) There has been a default in the fulfiliment of the oblivity under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/a	ura.				
Colle Nash		4/23/2021	specifically described in the Telecom Operating Rep	ion i				
	_	DATE	-					
		PART	A. BALANCE SHEET					
	BALANCE	BALANCE		BALANCE	BALANCE			
ASSETS	PRIOR YEAR	END OF PERIOD	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	PRIOR YEAR	END OF PERIOD			
CURRENT ASSETS			CURRENT LIABILITIES					
1. Cash and Equivalents			25. Accounts Payable					
2. Cash-RUS Construction Fund			26. Notes Payable					
3. Affiliates:			27. Advance Billings and Payments					
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable			28. Customer Deposits					
b. Other Accounts Receivable			29. Current Mat. L/T Debt					
c. Notes Receivable			30. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev.					
4. Non-Affiliates:			31. Current Mat-Capital Leases					
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable		-	32. Income Taxes Accrued					
b. Other Accounts Receivable			33. Other Taxes Accrued					
c. Notes Receivable			34. Other Current Liabilities					
5. Interest and Dividends Receivable			35. Total Current Liabilities (25 thru 34)					
6. Material-Regulated			LONG-TERM DEBT					
7. Material-Nonregulated			36. Funded Debt-RUS Notes					
8. Prepayments			37. Funded Debt-RTB Notes					
9. Other Current Assets			38. Funded Debt-FFB Notes					
0. Total Current Assets (1 Thru 9)			39. Funded Debt-Other					
IONCURRENT ASSETS			40. Funded Debt-Rural Develop. Loan					
1. Investment in Affiliated Companies			41. Premium (Discount) on L/T Debt					
a. Rural Development			42. Reacquired Debt					
b. Nonrural Development			43. Obligations Under Capital Lease					
2. Other Investments			44. Adv. From Affiliated Companies					
a. Rural Development			45. Other Long-Term Debt					
b. Nonrural Development			46. Total Long-Term Debt (36 thru 45)					
3. Nonregulated Investments			OTHER LIAB. & DEF. CREDITS					
4. Other Noncurrent Assets			47. Other Long-Term Liabilities					
5. Deferred Charges			48. Other Deferred Credits					
6. Jurisdictional Differences			49. Other Jurisdictional Differences					
7. Total Noncurrent Assets (11 thru 16)			50. Total Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits (47 thru 49)					
LANT, PROPERTY, AND EQUIPMENT			EQUITY					
8. Telecom, Plant-in-Service			51. Cap. Stock Outstand. & Subscribed					
9. Property Held for Future Use			52. Additional Paid-in-Capital					
0. Plant Under Construction			53. Treasury Stock					
			54. Membership and Cap. Certificates					
1. Plant Ad., Nonop. Plant & Goodwill			55. Other Capital					
	1							
2. Less Accumulated Depreciation	1		56. Patronage Capital Credits					
2. Less Accumulated Depreciation 3. Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)			56. Patronage Capital Credits 57. Retained Earnings or Margins					
Plant Adj., Nonop. Plant & Goodwill     Less Accumulated Depreciation     Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)     TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23)								
2. Less Accumulated Depreciation 3. Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)			57. Retained Earnings or Margins		, ,			

### USDA-RUS

BORROWER DESIGNATION

### OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

PERIOD ENDING

### December 2020 INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2 PART B. STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS OR MARGINS ITEM PRIOR YEAR THIS YEAR 1. Local Network Services Revenues 2. Network Access Services Revenues 3. Long Distance Network Services Revenues 4. Carrier Billing and Collection Revenues 5. Miscellaneous Revenues 6. Uncollectible Revenues 7. Net Operating Revenues (1 thru 5 less 6) 8. Plant Specific Operations Expense 9. Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (Excluding Depreciation & Amortization) 10. Depreciation Expense 11. Amortization Expense 12. Customer Operations Expense 13. Corporate Operations Expense 14. Total Operating Expenses (8 thru 13) 15. Operating Income or Margins (7 less 14) 16. Other Operating Income and Expenses 17. State and Local Taxes 18. Federal Income Taxes 19. Other Taxes 20. Total Operating Taxes (17+18+19) 21. Net Operating Income or Margins (15+16-20) 22. Interest on Funded Debt 23. Interest Expense - Capital Leases 24. Other Interest Expense 25. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction 26. Total Fixed Charges (22+23+24-25) 27. Nonoperating Net Income 28. Extraordinary Items 29. Jurisdictional Differences 30. Nonregulated Net Income 31. Total Net income or Margins (21+27+28+29+30-26) 32. Total Taxes Based on Income 33. Retained Earnings or Margins Beginning-of-Year 34. Miscellaneous Credits Year-to-Date 35. Dividends Declared (Common) 36. Dividends Declared (Preferred) 37. Other Debits Year-to-Date 38. Transfers to Patronage Capital 39. Retained Earnings or Margins End-of-Period [(31+33+34) - (35+36+37+38)]

40. Patronage Capital Beginning-of-Year

Transfers to Patronage Capital
 Patronage Capital Credits Retired

43. Patronage Capital End-of-Year (40+41-42)

44. Annual Debt Service Payments

45. Cash Ratio [(14+20-10-11) / 7]

46. Operating Accrual Ratio [(14+20+26) / 7]

47. TIER [(31+26) / 26]

48. DSCR [(31+26+10+11)/44]

	ī	FELECOMMU	USDA-RUS TING REPORT F NICATIONS BOR	ROWERS		PERIOD END	
	Part C.	SUBSCRIBER (AG	CESS LINE), ROUT	e mile, & high spei	ED DATA INFO	RMATION	
	1. R/	ATES	2. SUB	SCRIBERS (ACCESS LIN	VES)	3. ROUTE	MILES
EXCHANGE	B-1	R-1	BUSINESS	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL	TOTAL (Including fiber)	FIBER
Sorum North Lemmon Nisland West Camp Crook Bison							
Camp Crook							
Newell							
Lemmon							
Meadow							
MobileWireless							
Route Mileage Outside Exchange Area							
Total							
No. Exchanges							

			USDA-RUS				BORROWER	DESIGNATION	
TELECOMMONICATIONS BORROWERS								PERIOD ENDED December 2020	
	Part C	. SUBSCRIBER (		ROUTE MILE, &		DATA INFORM	ATION		
		1	4. 0	and the second se		nsive Broadband S	ervice		
EXCHANGE	No. Access Lines with BB available	No Of Broadband Subscribers	Number Of Subscribers	Advertised Download Rate (Kbps)	Advertised Upload Rate (Kbps)	Price Per Month	Standalone/Pckg	Type Of Technology (g)	
Buffalo			1-1					12/	
Sorum North Lemmon Nisland									
West Camp Crook	+								
Bison									
Camp Crook									
Newell									
Lemmon									
Meadow									
Total									

USDA-RUS				BORROWER DESIGNATION			
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS							
				PERIOD ENDING			
		December 20	20				
INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2							
		PART D. SYSTEM	f DATA				
No. Plant Employees 2. No. Other Employees 3. Squaro Miles Served				4. Access Lines per Square Mile		5. Subscribers per Route Mile	
		PART E. TOLL	DATA				
1. Study Area ID Code(s) 2.	. Types of Toll Se	ettlements (Check on	3)				
a			Interstate:	Average Schedul	8	X Cost Basis	
b							
G			Intrastate:	Average Schedul	8	X Cost Basis	
d				_		_	
e							
f							
g							
h							
l							
۱ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ							
	PART F. FU	INDS INVESTED IN F	PLANT DURING YE	AR			
1. RUS, RTB, & FFB Loan Funds Expended							
2. Other Long-Term Loan Funds Expended							
3. Funds Expended Under RUS Interim Approval							
4. Other Short-Term Loan Funds Expended							
5. General Funds Expended (Other than Interim)							
6. Salvaged Materials							
7. Contribution in Ald to Construction							
8. Gross Additions to Telecom. Plant (1 thru 7)							
	PART G. IN	VESTMENTS IN AFF	ILIATED COMPAN	IES			
		GURRENT	EAR DATA		CUMULATIVE D	ATA	
				Cumulative	Cumulative		
INVESTMENTS		Investment	Income/Loss	Investment	income/Loss	Current	
		This Year	This Year	To Date	To Date	Balance	
(a)		в	(c)	(d)	(e)	Ø	
1. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Rural Development							
2. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Nonrural Developme	h						

Page 5 of 6

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U	S	D,	4-	R	u	S

BORROWER DESIGNATION

OFDIOD F

OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS						
		PERIOD ENDING December 2020				
Are corporation's depreciation rates approved with jurisdiction over the provision of telepho		YES X	NO			
EQUIPME	ENT CATEGORY	DEPRECIATION	RATE			
1. Land and support assets - Motor Veh	icles					
2. Land and support assets - Aircraft						
3. Land and support assets - Special pu	rpose vehicles					
4. Land and support assets - Garage ar	d other work equipment					
5. Land and support assets - Buildings						
6. Land and support assets - Furniture a	and Office equipment					
7. Land and support assets - General p	urpose computers					
8. Central Office Switching - Digital						
9. Central Office Switching - Analog & E	lectro-mechanical					
10. Central Office Switching - Operator S	ystems					
11. Central Office Transmission - Radio S	Systems					
12. Central Office Transmission - Circuit e	quipment					
13. Information origination/termination - S						
14. Information origination/termination - C						
15. Information origination/termination - L	5. Information origination/termination - Large private branch exchanges					
16. Information origination/termination - F	ublic telephone terminal e	quipment				
17. Information origination/termination - C	other terminal equipment		ک نے			
18. Cable and wire facilities - Poles						
19. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable	- Metal					
20. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable	- Fiber					
21. Cable and wire facilities - Undergrour						
22. Cable and wire facilities - Undergrour	id cable - Fiber					
23. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cabl	e - Metal					
24. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cabl	e - Fiber					
25. Cable and wire facilities - Conduit systems						
26. Cable and wire facilities - Other						

USDA-RUS OPERATING REPORT FOR	BORROWER DESIGNATION		
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	PERIOD ENDED		
NSTRUCTIONS - See help in the online application.			
PART I - STATEMENT OF C	ASH FLOWS		
Beginning Cash (Cash and Equivalents plus RUS Construction Fund)			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITI	IES		
Net Income			
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by	Operating Activities		
Add: Depreciation			
Add: Amortization			
Other (Explain) MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS			
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities	\$		
	ES		
	instes & Other Capital		
Other (Explain) MISCELLANEOUS CREDITS AND OTHER DEBITS TO RETAINED EARNINGS OR	MARGIN		
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities			
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIE	ES		
Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Plant & Equipment)			
Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences			
Other (Explain) NET OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			
Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities			
Ending Cash			
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVIT Net Income Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Add: Depreciation Add: Amortization Other (Explain) MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable Increase/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable Increase/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Receivable Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Receivable Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Resets Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Resets Increase/(Decrease) in Advance Billings & Payments Increase/(Decrease) in Notes Receivable Increase/(Decrease) in Customer Deposits Net Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Stock, Paid-in Capital, Membership and Capital Certific Less: Payment of Dividends Less: Patronage Capital Credits Retired Other (Explain) MISCELLANEOUS CREDITS AND OTHER DEBITS TO RETAINED EARNINGS OR Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITI Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Piart & Equipment) Other Long-Term Investments Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences Other (Capital) NET OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash		

USDA-RUS	BORROWER DESIGNATION
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December 2020
NOTES TO THE OPERATING REA	PORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

USDA-RUS	BORROWER DESIGNATION
OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS	
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December 2020
CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT NOTES TO TH	E OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

#### 4/23/2021 USDA DCS > Op. Report-Telecom > Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Utilities Programs - Data Collection System USDA ind up if HOME HELP PRINT ADMIN LOGOUT CONTACT US COLGAN HUBER ; WEST RIVER COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY [SD0525] ; OR. REPORT-TELECOM ; DECEMBER 2020 **Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers** NAVIGATION Your response is required by 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq, and subject to federal laws and regulations regarding confidential information, will be treated as confidential. Borrowers This report has been submitted. Reports Op. Report-Telecom Certification Point Of Contact Prepared with Audited Data: No Yes Data Submitted: 04/23/2021 09:07 AM Part A Part B Part C BORROWER POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION: Part D Part E Part E Part G Contact Name: ColganHuber 605-244-5213 Phone Number: Part H Email Address: chuber@wrctc.coop Part I Notes

**View Checks** 

Save

**View Checks Report** 

12

All errors must be corrected and all warnings must be explained before the form can be submitted for review.

Ξ	Mortgage Ratio Check	ŝ							
-	Тура	Check Key	Description						
-	No Errors or Warnings								
Ξ	Part A: Balance Sheet								
-	Тура	Check Key	Description						
-	No Errors or Warnings								
Ξ	Part B: Statements of	Part B: Statements of Income and Retained Earnings or Margins							
	Туре	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ξ	Part C: Subscriber (Ac	cess Line), Route Mile, & High Speed Data Information							
	Туре	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ξ	Part D: System Data								
_	Туре	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ð	Part E: Toll Data								
	Туре	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ð	Part F: Funds Invested	In Plant During Year							
	Туре	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ξ	Part G: Investments in	Affiliated Companies							
	Туре	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ð	Part H: Current Depreciation Rates								
	Тура	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								
Ε	Part I: Statement of Ca	ish Flows							
	Тура	Check Key	Description						
-	No Errors or Warnings								
Ξ	Cross Checks								
	Тура	Check Key	Description						
	No Errors or Warnings								

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USDA | Rural Development | eAuth Accessibility Statement | Privacy Policy | Non-Discrimination 4/6/2024-

E-Filings | previous page

filed 4/6/21 KG

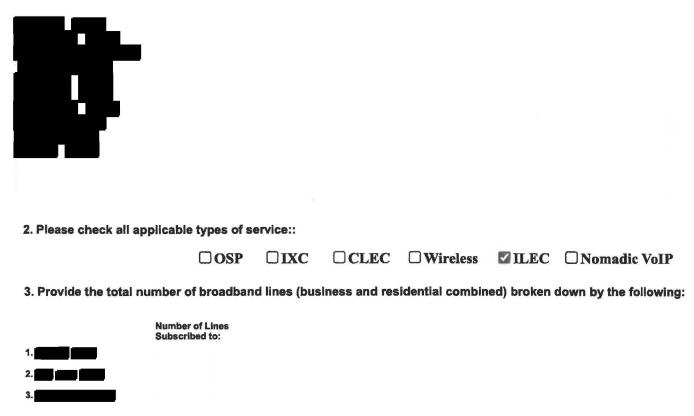
### SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2020 500 E. Capitol Ave. Pierre, SD 57501- 5070 puc.sd.gov

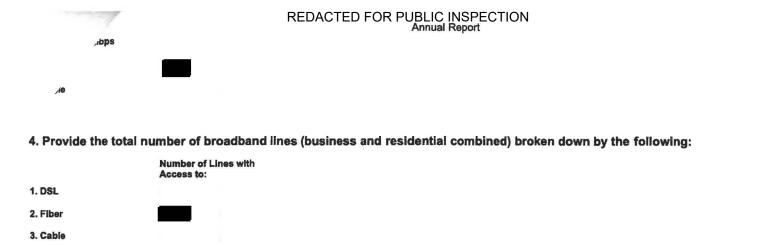
If you have questions regarding this report, call SD PUC at (605) 773-3201.

You must fill in all the required information and/or correct the errors shown below

Name of Carrier:* West River Cooperative Telephone C	Telephone: *		
Address:* 801 Coleman Avenue	Web Site Address: www.westrivertel.coop		
City:* Bison	Federal Employer ID: *		
State & ZIP code* SD			
Name * Kay Grinsteinner	E-mail ** kgrinsteinner@wrctc.coop		
Telephone *			

1. Where in South Dakota, during any part of 2020, did your company provide telecommunications service? This may be provided by city or by ZIP code.





5. To be answered by all providers offering telecommunication services in South Dakota. Each line should be reported on this form only once. Do not report a line in more than one category.

