

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2022**

Company: City of Brookings Municipal Utilities Telephone Department d/b/a
Swiftel Communications

Address: PO Box 588
525 Western Ave
Brookings, SD 57006

Telephone number: 605-692-6325

Company Contact: Laura Julius

Study Area Code: 391650

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

- X Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See Attachment A - attached advertisements 1-3)
- X Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up within 1st 30 days of service.* (Attachment B)
- X Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory. (Attachment C)
- X Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website at (<http://swiftel.net/phone/>) (Attachment D)
- X Company's information posted on USAC website. (Attachment E)
- X Other (describe): Posters and brochures placed in offices and other public places where customers who qualify are likely to see them. (See Attachment F, 1-2)

*Required

Signed 
Laura Julius
Financial & IT Manager
Swiftel Communications

Date June 1, 2022

LIFeline

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

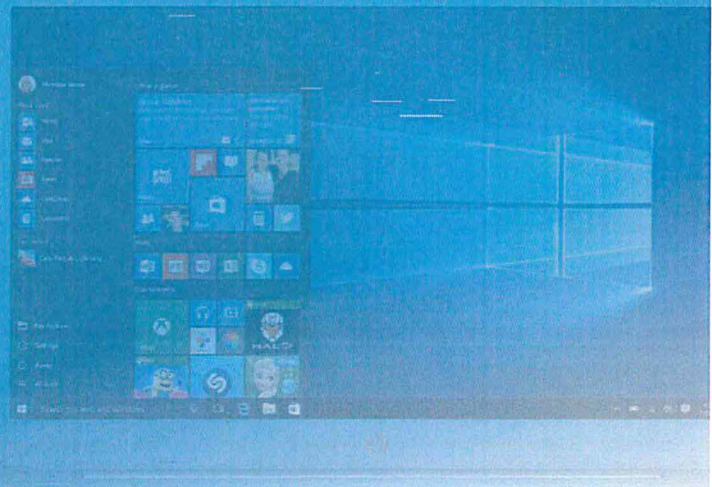
BASIC TELEPHONE or INTERNET SERVICE

Lifeline is a public assistance program offering a discount to qualified consumers on their telephone or Internet service. The discount is applied to their monthly bill.

You may qualify for **Lifeline** assistance if you meet certain income level requirements, or if you currently participate in certain public assistance programs. Eligibility requirements vary by state.

Lifeline assistance is available to one person per household.

Lifeline subscribers may also receive long distance blocking on their line free of charge.



For more information about Lifeline assistance or to apply, go to www.checklifeline.org.



605.692.6211

415 4th Street, Brookings



LIFeline

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See other side for how to qualify



See other side for how to qualify



See other side for how to qualify

How to qualify for the Lifeline discount.

1. Participation, with supporting documentation, in at least one of the following programs -
 - Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veteran's Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs
2. Qualify by household income level:
 - Income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines based on the number of individuals in your household.

- You will need to provide documentation to support income eligibility.
Documentation may be:
 - Prior year's state/federal/tribal tax return
 - Three consecutive months of income statements or paycheck stubs
 - Social Security statement of benefits
 - Veteran's Admin statement of benefits
 - Retirement/pension statement of benefits
 - Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
 - A divorce decree, child support award, or other official court document with income information

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Swiftel

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415 4th Street, Brookings

Do you need
assistance with
affording
telephone service?

Swiftel[™]

is proud to offer

LIFeline
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ATTACHMENT A.3



For more information & to apply
Go to: www.checklifeline.org



Account Number:
Billing Date: 05/21/2022

Service Summary

<i>Recurring Charges</i>	<i>One Time Charges</i>	<i>Long Distance</i>	<i>Taxes and Surcharges</i>	<i>Total</i>
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Charge Detail

Internet Charges

to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens.

* The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

The person applying for assistance must have telephone service in their name, and must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs:

- SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pensions, or Survivor's Pension

OR - Household income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM PROVIDE?

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a monthly credit of \$5.25 on their basic home telephone service charges or a monthly credit of \$9.25 for bundled broadband services.

If you meet eligibility requirements, you may pick up an application form at Swiftel Communications, 415 4th St, Brookings, OR apply online at www.checklifeline.org.

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying programs, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline. You are obligated by law to notify Swiftel Communications of the change.

If you have questions about Lifeline, contact Swiftel Communications at 605-692-6211 for more information.

Annual Lifeline Msg

Swiftel Communications is authorized to provide the Lifeline telephone assistance program that was developed in response

Swiftel Communications

Consumer Tips

they have no further responsibility if you continue to make substantially the same allegation.

You cannot be charged for a billing review.

The amount still due on your billing account needs to be paid in full. Your local company, or the long-distance company providing the pay-per-call service, may take action to collect the amount outstanding if you continue to withhold payment once the billing review is done.

Failure to pay the amount outstanding may subject you to collection action, including being reported to a collection agency or credit bureau. If you continue to dispute any portion of your billing error claim, your telephone company will include it and identify the disputed amount to the collection agency or credit bureau. Your company will attempt to inform you if your account is turned over for collection and to what agency it will be sent. If the dispute is resolved, that fact will be reported to all who received notice that the account was delinquent.

If your billing entity, or the long-distance company involved, fail to follow the billing and collection procedures prescribed by Section 308.7 of the Federal Trade Commission rule implementing the TDDRA, they are obligated to forfeit any disputed amount, up to \$50 per transaction.

DISCLOSURE UNDER FCC RULE 64.1509(b)
The FCC requires the following disclosures to telephone subscribers:

Your local exchange and long-distance service cannot be disconnected or interrupted as a result of your failure to pay charges for interstate pay-per-call services, charges for interstate information services provided pursuant to a presubscription or compatible arrangement, or charges you have disputed for interstate tariffed collect information services.

You can obtain blocking of access to 900# services where it is technically feasible, at no charge, on a one-time basis.

You have a right not to be billed for pay-per-call services offered which are not in compliance with Federal laws and regulations established under Titles II or III of the TDDRA.

Your access to pay-per-call services may be involuntarily blocked for failure to pay legitimate pay-per-call charges.

Contact your local telephone company's business office with questions about pay-per-call charges or to request a 900# block.

LIFELINE/LINK-UP DISCOUNT INFORMATION
Swiftel Communications customers who qualify may be eligible for monthly telephone service discount.

Participation in one or more of the following assistance programs qualifies you for the Lifeline and/or Link-Up discount:
SNAP (Food Stamps), Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, Medicaid, Veterans' or Survivors Pension, or if your household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

To apply or get more information, go to:
www.checklifeline.org
www.lifelinesupporting.org
or, call 1-800-234-9473

TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR HEARING & SPEECH IMPAIRED USA RELAY 5-D, 711 or Toll Free 1-800-877-1113

Questions or Additional Information
Toll Free 1-800-642-6410

COMMUNICATION SERVICE FOR THE DEAF

If you require assistance using the telephone system due to a hearing or speech impairment, or need to communicate with someone who has such an impairment, contact Communication Service for the Deaf. They are equipped with TDDs (Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf) and provide service. For information on Voice Carry-Over and Hearing Carry-Over services, call 1-800-642-6410. To contact and use the USA Relay for call processing, call 711 or 1-800-877-1113.

Brookings Police and Fire (911) as well as the Brookings County Sheriff's Office (rural 911) are equipped to handle Emergency and Non-Emergency Calls with TDDs.

HOW TO HANDLE ANNOYANCE CALLS

It is against the law in the state of South Dakota to make an obscene, harassing or threatening telephone call. When you receive such a call, follow these suggestions:

1. When answering your telephone, say "hello" twice. If no answer, HANG UP.
2. Do not give information until you are absolutely certain you know who is speaking.
3. Instruct children not to give any information to strangers over the phone.
4. Hang up when you hear something off-color or obscene. Never reveal you are alone.
5. When annoyance calls persist, contact your local law enforcement agency.
6. Calls of a threatening nature should be reported to the local law enforcement agency immediately.
7. Customer-Originated Trace is another available service.

CUSTOMER ORIGINATED TRACE

When you are serious about prosecuting an offender, Call Trace lets you automatically trace an obscene or threatening phone call and delivers the number to local law enforcement. If the caller has violated South Dakota Codified Law 49-31-31 and you decide to prosecute, the police may use the trace as evidence.

Note: Every time you complete a call trace, you will be charged, whether or not you follow up with authorities. The traced number will be delivered ONLY to law enforcement.

1. Automatically available on every line at no charge, unless you use it.
2. If you receive a call that you would like to trace:
 - Hang up.
 - Dial *57 (Rotary 1157).
 - You will hear an announcement. You have accessed the Call Trace Feature. Cost for a successful trace is \$4.00.
 - To discontinue the trace, hang up.
3. To continue the trace, dial 1. You will hear an announcement telling you that your trace has been successful and to call local law enforcement for further assistance.

UNLAWFUL WIRETAPPING MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION

Under federal and state laws, it is a crime for any person to wiretap or otherwise intercept a telephone call without the consent of one or both parties actually participating in the call. When proceeding under court orders, authorized law enforcement officers can take part in interception without the consent of either party. The penalty for illegal wiretapping is imprisonment and/or a fine.

USE OF TELEPHONE FOR DEBT COLLECTION PURPOSES

The Federal Communications Commission regulates the use of interstate telephone service for the collection of claimed debts. Disallowed practices include calling at odd hours of the day or night; repeated calls; calls to friends, neighbors, relatives, employers, and children; calls making a variety of threats; calls asserting falsely that credit ratings will be hurt; calls falsely stating that legal process is about to be served; calls demanding payments for amounts not owed; calls to places of employment, and calls misrepresenting the terms and conditions of existing or proposed contracts. Tariffs of the telephone companies forbid use of the telephone "for a call or calls" expected to frighten, abuse, torment, or harass another, or for calls that interfere unreasonably with the use of the service by one or more other customers, or for calls for "unlawful purpose". Upon violation of any of these conditions, the telephone company can, by written notice, discontinue service immediately. These tariff regulations are filed with this Commission pursuant to Section 203 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 203, and are binding on the telephone company and customer alike. (Rules & regulations referenced in this directory are subject to change. For the most current information, contact the FCC at 1-800-CALL-FCC or <http://www.fcc.gov>; OR SD PUC Office of Consumer Affairs, 1-800-332-1782 or <http://www.state.sd.us/puc>)

"Do Not Call" SIGN-UP

South Dakota consumers may sign up to stop most telemarketing calls. The sign-up is free and consumers have two ways to register their home telephone and personal cell phone numbers:

1. Call 1-888-382-1222 from the home or personal cell phone you wish to be registered; or
2. Register via Internet at www.donotcall.gov for wireline and/or wireless phones.

Consumers can register just once to be covered by both the national and state Do Not Call lists. South Dakotans can register complaints with the PUC at 1-800-332-1782.

Swiftel
swiftel.net
605-692-6211

ATTACHMENT D

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://swiftel.net/phone/>. The page features the Swiftel logo and navigation menu with options: HOME, PHONE (highlighted), TV, INTERNET, PACKAGES, BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, SUPPORT, and CAREERS. A banner for 'Swiftel PHONE' is titled 'MOST RELIABLE METHOD OF COMMUNICATION'. The 'PHONE' section lists 'RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE - \$18.00/month' with details on local calling and 911 service. It also lists 'FREE CALLING FEATURES' including Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-Way Calling, and Per Call Caller ID Block. A red-bordered box highlights a 'LIFEline ASSISTANCE PROGRAM' advertisement with a 'Click box to view brochure.' link and a URL to www.checklifeline.org.

PHONE

RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SERVICE - \$18.00/month
Unlimited local calling in the Swiftel service area, 411 Directory Assistance and Enhanced 911.

FREE CALLING FEATURES

CALL WAITING
Alerts you of an incoming call while you're on the phone.

CALL FORWARDING
Allows you to forward your phone call to another location.

3-WAY CALLING
Allows you to set up a conference call with two other parties.

PER CALL CALLER ID BLOCK
Prevents your phone from being displayed to the party receiving your call.

LIFEline ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Click box to view brochure.

For more information, or to apply, please go to www.checklifeline.org.

ATTACHMENT E



Companies Near Me

This tool can help you find companies in your area that offer Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) service. These programs can reduce the cost of phone or internet service by providing a monthly discount. ACP, which began on December 31, 2021, is the long-term replacement of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program.

To learn more about these programs and learn if you qualify for a discount, visit [Lifeline Get Qualified](#) page or the [ACP Get Qualified](#) page.

ACP service providers may have their own application process, so consumers should contact their preferred service provider for more information. Consumers may also be eligible for a one-time discount on a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet through ACP. However, not all service providers offer the device benefit. Ask your service provider if they offer devices or visit the FCC's website to see a list of providers who offer the device benefit.

Find a Company

Enter Your Zip Code

Example: 12345

OR

Enter Your City and State

Search

[View Results](#)

Note: Search results are based on program enrollment and information provided by the companies. The search results may include a company listed in your area that may not provide service to your address. Also, the search results might not show every company that is near you. A company may still offer Lifeline and/or ACP service even if it is not on the list. Please contact the company to confirm if they offer Lifeline or the ACP service for your address.

Companies near Brookings,SD

The order of these companies are random and may be different the next time you search.

Types of Service:

Fixed Lifeline Service: Lifeline home phone or internet service

Mobile Lifeline Service: Lifeline mobile phone or internet service

ACP Home Internet: ACP home internet service

ACP Mobile Internet: ACP mobile internet service

Showing 20 of 61 companies



Company Name	Phone	Type of Service	State
Swiftel Communications	605-692-6211	Mobile Lifeline Service	SD
Swiftel Communications	605-692-6211	Fixed Lifeline Service	SD



525 Western Ave – 605-692-6325

PO Box 588 – Brookings, SD 57006-0588



June 2022

RE: LIFELINE OUTREACH
For wireline service areas

Types of public places we display posters and brochures promoting the Lifeline discount:

- Nursing homes
- Senior Living Centers
- SD Social Services offices
- Women's shelters
- Food Pantry
- Apartment Rental Offices
- Apartment Management Companies
- Country Welfare offices
- Others not listed here

ATTACHMENT F.2

Swiftel Communications is required to provide this information to all new customers.

LIFELINE DISCOUNT FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE IS AVAILABLE – DO YOU QUALIFY?

Swiftel Communications is authorized to provide the Lifeline telephone discount program to our customers. The program was developed in response to concerns about the affordability of service for low-income citizens. Participants in the following programs qualify for a monthly discount of \$9.25 on their Swiftel bill.

- Medicaid
- SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- SSI – Supplemental Security Income
- OR – if household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

If you qualify, ask sales representative how to apply for this discount.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand all terms and conditions of this contract and assume all responsibility of any charges as of the connect date. Responsibility will continue until term of service is met or service is terminated. An early termination fee will be applied to the account if length of service not fulfilled. I acknowledge that I reviewed Swiftel's Lifeline discount availability and Swiftel's Acceptable Use Policy. Available at swiftel.net/policy

Signature: _____

Date: _____