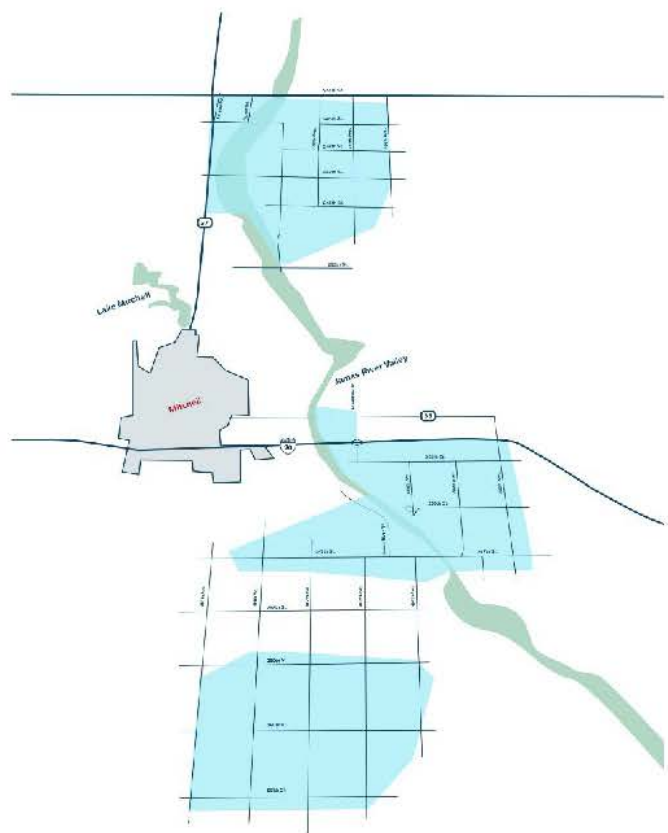
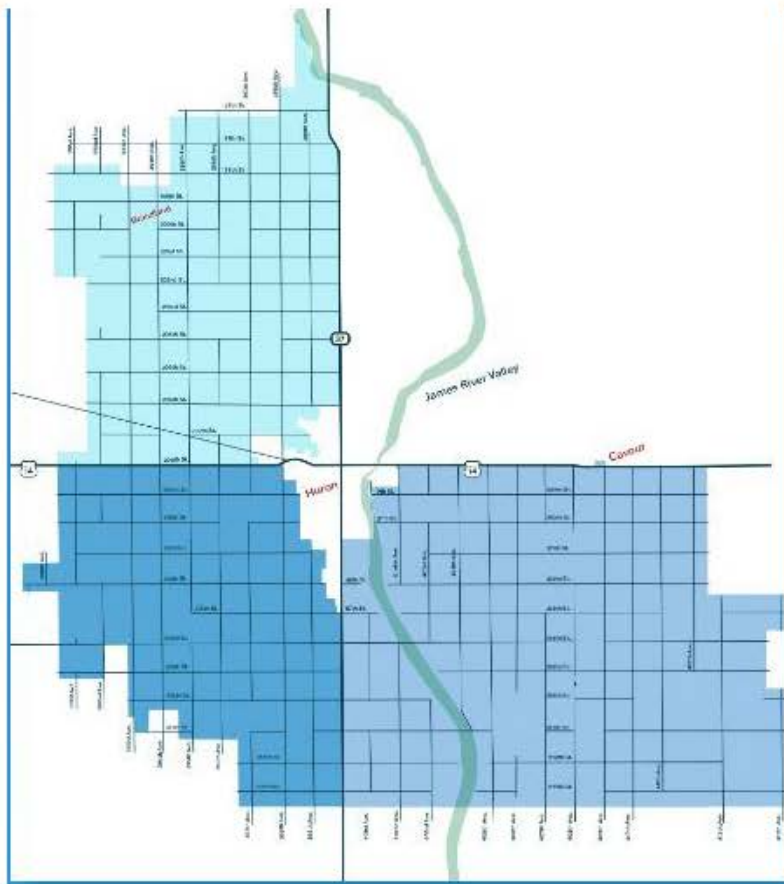


**Docket Number:** TC22-026  
**Subject Matter:** First Data Request  
**Request to:** Santel Communications, Inc. (Santel or Company)  
**Request from:** South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff  
**Date of Request:** July 6, 2022  
**Responses Due:** July 20, 2022

- 1-1. Refer to Exhibit A. Does Santel expect the copper to fiber conversions at customer locations to be completed in 2022? [REDACTED]
- 1-2. Refer to Exhibit B. How much of the [REDACTED] in Estimated Total Supported Expenses is estimated to be depreciation? [REDACTED]
- 1-3. The Federal Poverty Guidelines link in the Lifeline section of the Company website appears to be broken. Please correct as appropriate. [This has been corrected.](#)
- 1-4. Refer to page 4 of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Annual Report. Should the telephone-only discount in the first paragraph be \$5.25? If so, please provide an updated letter. [Attached updated document.](#)
- 1-5. Provide an update on the projects funded by the Connect SD Broadband grant. Have these projects been completed? If not, when does Santel expect completion? [Connect SD program projects and awards are not part of our network improvement investments and operating expenses as represented in the USF ETC study area and the information submitted under docket TC22-026. However, in response to your question, Santel was awarded Connect SD funds from GOED in 2020 and 2021. The 2020 award was for a rural FTTP project west of Mitchell and was completed in 2021. The 2021 award area was for rural FTTP builds NE, east, and SE of Mitchell and NW, SW, SE of Huron, and project was completed in the same year. The combined project serves 600 square miles with a gigabit capable broadband network, currently providing Internet, phone and cable TV service. Service area illustrations below.](#)









September 2021

Volume 27, Issue 9



## Directory Additions

### ETHAN

Schrank, Lee 605-227-0733

### MITCHELL

Anderson Kennels 605-996-1618

Anderson, Mike 605-996-1618

Deurmier, Donna 605-996-8816

Gerlach, Richard 605-996-3027

Klumb, Michelle 605-996-1814

Knight, John-Sally 605-550-7922

Kummer, Lori 605-996-3563

Luczak, Frank 605-996-1289

Schuldt, Brian 605-996-4862

Schutte, Brett 605-996-8535

Vermeulen, Jeff 605-996-8545

Vermeulen, Rod 605-996-0574

### PARKSTON

Stoebner, Elton 605-928-6889

## We ♥ Our Coop Members!

Santel's 69th Annual Meeting will be held at the Woonsocket Community Center on Monday, September 13th. All active members of Santel Communications Cooperative will receive an official Notice of Annual Meeting in the mail and you must present this notice upon arrival to the meeting.

We will begin serving the meal at 6pm with the business meeting to follow at 7pm. The meeting agenda will include election of directors, approval of 2020 Annual Meeting minutes, and review of the audited 2020 financial reports. All attendees will receive a one-time bill credit and we will finish the evening with many door prizes.

Incumbents Richard Alt of Forestburg (Central District), and Dan Kurtenbach of Dimock (South District), were the only petitioners for their respective districts so no election will be held for those seats. Incumbent Jerry Jenssen and Constance Feistner, both of Woonsocket, have each returned petitions and are seeking to serve the North District so there will be an election for that open seat.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

## Lifeline & Emergency Broadband Benefit

Santel Communications is proud to offer two programs that can assist our members with the cost of their monthly broadband services. Qualifying customers who reside in our cooperative territory can receive \$9.25 per month savings on their broadband if they participate in at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, previously called food stamps), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit. To apply, go to [lifelinesupport.org](http://lifelinesupport.org).

The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program is a temporary offering during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides \$50 per month savings to any of our Internet customers in qualifying households. This program will be in effect until the program funds are exhausted or 6 months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the pandemic, whichever comes first. To see if you qualify or to apply, go to: [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org)



PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385

Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri

[www.santel.coop](http://www.santel.coop)

Email: [info@santel.coop](mailto:info@santel.coop) 605-796-4411

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





Welcome to Santel Communications. As a customer, you are now a cooperative member/owner and you will accrue patronage capital credits which will be paid out to you in the future allowing you to share in the profits of the cooperative.

A few things to know about Santel Communications:

- We have been bringing our members the latest telecommunications services since 1952.
- We offer high speed Internet access to all customers. Email is included free if needed.
- We offer a top-of-the-line residential whole home WiFi service to ensure a great Internet experience.
- We offer local and long-distance telephone service as well as voice mail (including the popular voicemail to email feature) and approximately 30 other calling features which are listed on our website.
- We offer digital television service to customers living in communities served by Santel TV as well as to rural customers served by Fiber Optics. Our TV service includes network and cable channels, digital music channels, the Weather App, Restart TV, Watch TV Everywhere, Video on Demand, High Definition (HD), and Whole Home Digital Video Recording (DVR).
- We are proud to be the only TV provider giving you Local Content channels from area schools and the World's Only Corn Palace!
- We offer scholarships annually to graduating high school seniors whose parents are active residential cooperative members of Santel Communications.
- To reach us from your home phone, simply dial 796-4411 (toll free from your home phone) for Customer Service or to report a trouble.
- You can find more detailed information about Santel Communications at our website [www.santel.coop](http://www.santel.coop). From there you can view/pay your monthly bill, contact us via email, access the portal for voicemail or DVR, see monthly specials, and much more!

When new Central Connections telephone directories are printed, a copy is mailed to each active Santel customer. If you'd like a directory now, or additional directories at any time, you can find them at the Santel office, Country Pumper in Forestburg, Larsen's Grocery in Fedora, some city offices, and at the banks in each community. You can also access our online directory at <https://ebill.santel.net/ebill/login> once you've created your online account.

Lifeline is a program designed to provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help with affordable telephone or broadband services. To see if you qualify for the Lifeline program, see the reverse side of this letter. ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program) is another program designed to make broadband more affordable. Visit [ACPSBenefit.org](http://ACPSBenefit.org) to see if you qualify.

*Thank you for choosing Santel Communications. We are here to help you with all of your telecommunications needs.*

Your Santel Team

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SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS  
PO Box 67  
Woonsocket, SD 57385



Voice: 605-796-4411  
Fax: 605-796-4419  
[www.santel.coop](http://www.santel.coop)

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

- ***What type of Lifeline discount is available?***

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of your monthly local telephone service or broadband service. Eligible consumers can receive \$9.25 per month discount on stand-alone broadband service or broadband bundled with telephone, or a discount of \$5.25 on telephone-only services. Lifeline customers also do not pay USF charges.

- ***Are there any restrictions?***

Lifeline can only be used for ONE participant per residence or household. Lifeline customers may purchase all services offered to non-Lifeline customers.

- ***How do I know whether I am eligible?***

Eligibility for Lifeline in South Dakota is based upon the federal guidelines. An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension & Survivors Pension Program
- OR if you do not participate in one or more of the programs listed above, you may qualify if your household income does not exceed 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines per the chart below. You must provide proof of your household eligibility.

- ***How do I apply to receive Lifeline?***

To apply for Lifeline, or if you have any questions, please contact USAC at 1-800-234-9473 or go to [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org).

Household Size	Annual Income
1 person	\$18,347
2 people	\$24,719
3 people	\$31,091
4 people	\$37,463
5 people	\$43,835
6 people	\$50,207
7 people	\$56,579
8 people	\$62,951
For each additional person, add \$6,372	



## General Rules & Regulations

### National Do Not Call Registry

The federal government created the National Do Not Call Registry to make it easier and more efficient for you to stop getting most telemarketing sales calls you don't want. You can register online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) if you have an active email address, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-888-290-4238), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free and your number will stay in the registry until it is disconnected, or until you delete it from the registry.

If you receive telemarketing calls after you have registered your telephone number and it has been in the registry for three months, you can file a complaint at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-888-290-4238). You will have to know the company's name or phone number to file a "do not call" complaint.

### Annoying, Obscene, And Threatening Calls

If you get an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 28 for instructions on using Customer Originated Trace. Threatening calls should be reported immediately to the police. Obscene or harassing calls are prohibited by federal and state laws. A person who makes or permits such calls to be made over a telephone under his/her control may be fined or imprisoned, or both.

### Lifeline Assistance Program

#### Lifeline Assistance Program

#### Available to Santel Low-Income Subscribers

The Lifeline Program is a federal program that provides a monthly benefit on home or wireless phone and broadband service to eligible households.

The Lifeline benefit can lower the cost of your monthly phone or internet bill. Only one benefit is available per household; either phone service (home or wireless) or internet (home or mobile), but not both.

There are two ways to qualify:

**INCOME:** If your household's income is at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, you may be eligible for a Lifeline Program benefit. You can check whether your income qualifies on the federal poverty guidelines eligibility chart which can be found at [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org). If your income is at or below the amount listed for your household's size and location, your household may be eligible for a Lifeline Program benefit.

**PROGRAM-BASED ELIGIBILITY:** If someone in your household participates in one of these federal programs, you may be eligible for a Lifeline Program benefit:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps;
- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8;
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Tribal Programs (and live on federally-recognized Tribal lands)

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of up to \$9.25 per month on the basic service portion of their bill. Customers may also receive long distance blocks at no charge and the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) will also be waived.

For more information, call Santel Communications Customer Service at 1-888-878-7777 or (805) 798-4411.

Email: [info@santel.coop](mailto:info@santel.coop)

For more information, you may also visit: [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)

**Note:** All rules and regulations in effect at time of printing are subject to change without notice.

## WHAT IS LIFELINE?

**Lifeline** is a government program that offers qualified low income households a discount on their monthly bill.

Eligible customers will save money on the basic monthly bill. These benefits apply to your local telephone service (\$5.25 mo. credit) or broadband services (\$9.25 mo. credit) or a bundle including both. The benefits also cover the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC).

**Lifeline credits are only available to the eligible customer / household and cannot be applied to more than one telecommunications provider at a time.**

**How do I know if I am eligible? Enrollment in one of the following programs is required.**

- Federal Public Housing Assistance / Section 8
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid



- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Veteran's Pension and Survivor's Pension Program
- OR
- Total household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Lifeline can only be used for the primary service in a household. You may purchase any additional services available to a non-Lifeline customer. You must establish service prior to applying for the Lifeline discount.

Please feel free to contact Santel Communications at 888-978-7777 or 605-796-4411 with any Lifeline questions you may have. Applications can be completed online.

You will be asked to sign a form stating, under penalty of perjury, that you receive benefits from at least one of the qualifying programs listed above and submit a copy of any dated document which verifies your participation in one of the qualifying programs listed above. You may be asked to submit proof of continuing eligibility on an annual basis. Proof of total household income may be required for income-based qualification. The following documents are acceptable as proof of income:

- Most recent federal tax return
- Three consecutive months of payroll statements or paycheck stubs for the current year
- A Social Security statement of benefits
- A Veterans' Administration statement of benefits
- A retirement/pension statement of benefits
- Unemployment/Workers Compensation statement of benefits
- A divorce decree, child support statement or any other official document showing proof of your income.

Your Lifeline benefits will take effect when proof of eligibility is received.

Eligibility is reviewed periodically. Your benefits will be discontinued when you no longer meet the eligibility requirements or when proof of eligibility is not received. Customers who are no longer eligible for Lifeline benefits must notify their service provider.

**Being a Lifeline customer does not protect you from being disconnected for failure to pay your bill.**

**Lifeline can only be applied to one account per independent household.**

# Applications

## GET CONNECTED TODAY!

Santel Communications offers a variety of services throughout South Dakota. Contact us today to see which services are available in your area. We're just a click or a call away!



605-796-4411



308 S. Dumont Ave.  
Woonsocket, SD 57385

**2022 Lifeline Guidelines  
for Household at or Below  
135% of the Federal  
Poverty Guidelines**

Household Size	Annually
1	\$18,347
2	\$24,719
3	\$31,091
4	\$37,463
5	\$43,835
6	\$50,207
7	\$56,579
8	\$62,951
Add for each add'l person	\$6,372

Consumers may qualify for Lifeline if they participate in any of the programs listed on the previous page, or if they have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as shown above.

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385



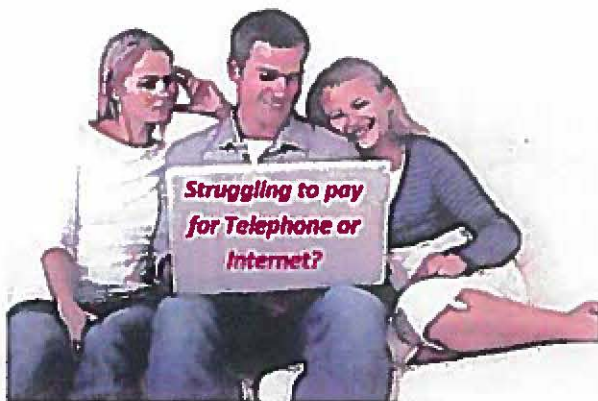
# Lifeline Assistance Program



**796-4411 OR  
1-888-978-7777  
info@santel.coop**







**Lifeline provides monthly discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them ensure continued subscription to telephone or Internet services.**

**Note:**

**In addition to the discount, Lifeline customers also do not get charged for the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) on their monthly bill.**

**How much is the discount?**

Telephone customers that do not have broadband will see a monthly savings of \$5.25. Customers with broadband only, or broadband with telephone, will see a monthly savings of \$9.25.

**How do I know if I qualify?**

Eligibility for Lifeline support in South Dakota follows federal guidelines which state that an individual qualifies for Lifeline if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- ⇒ Medicaid (eg Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- ⇒ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- ⇒ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan (SNAP)
- ⇒ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ⇒ Veterans Pension & Survivors Pension Program

A consumer may also be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines which are on the reverse side.



**Are there any restrictions?**

Lifeline must be applied to the main telephone or Internet service in a household and can only be applied to one service per household. The name on the account must match the name of the participant who is enrolled in one of the eligible programs.



**How do I apply to receive the Lifeline support?**

To apply for Lifeline, or if you have any questions about the Lifeline program, you can go to [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org). You can also contact our Santel billing office by calling 796-4411 toll free from your home phone or 1-888-978-7777 from outside our service area. We are happy to answer any questions we can; however, USAC will be the ones to approve the application and to handle the annual re-verification process.



## Assistance Available to Pay for Broadband or Telephone Service

Many households qualify for assistance paying for their high speed broadband Internet or their landline telephone charges, but they don't realize that help is available. You are allowed one Lifeline discount per household which can be applied to either Internet (\$9.25 monthly credit) or telephone service (\$5.25 monthly credit).

Lifeline is a federally funded program created to be sure everyone has the opportunity to receive affordable services. You are eligible for the Lifeline monthly discount if you are currently enrolled in one of the following programs:

\*SNAP (Food Stamps)

\*Medicaid

\*Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

\*Federal Public Housing Assistance

\*Veteran's Pension or Survivors Pension

If you do not qualify through one of the programs above, you may also qualify if your household income is below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as shown below.

Household Size	Annual Income
1 person	\$18,347
2 people	\$24,719
3 people	\$31,091
4 people	\$37,463
5 people	\$43,835
6 people	\$50,207
7 people	\$56,579
8 people	\$62,951

For each additional person, add \$6,372

Contact Santel Communications at 796-4411 or visit [Santel.coop](http://Santel.coop) for more information. To apply, go to [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org).



Stop in and check out our women's and girls' clothing, plus accessories and gifts for



451-455 Culture-Recreation (451)	\$1,207.34
451-455 Conservation and Development (455)	
470 Debt Service	\$13,113.86
480 Intergovernmental Expenditures	
490-493 Miscellaneous (492)	\$2,494.42

\$15,311.13

### MUNICIPALITY OF LETCHER STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL FUNDS For the Year Ended December 31, 2021 (continued)

	General Fund	Fund	Fund	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Enterprise Funds Water Deposit Fund	Surcharge Fund	Wh
<b>ENTERPRISE FUNDS</b>								
410 Personal Services								
420 Other Expenses	\$21,463.87			\$46,828.02	\$12,812.68			
428 Supplies and Materials	\$3,831.54							
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$139,978.86</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$46,828.02</b>	<b>\$28,123.78</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
391.01 Transfers In								
51100 Transfers Out								
391.02 Lease Proceeds								
391.03 Sale of Municipal Property								
391.04 Compensation for Loss or Damage to Capital Assets								
391.2 Money Received From Borrowing								
391.07 Capital Contributions (Grants)								
430 Capital Assets								
441 Debt Service-Principal								
442 Debt Service-Interest								
<b>Subtotal of Receipts, Disbursements and Transfers</b>	<b>(\$12,504.89)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,348.88</b>	<b>(\$13,679.35)</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>	<b>\$30,734.14</b>	
<b>Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$127,120.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13,538.88</b>	<b>\$37,146.36</b>			
<b>Adjustments:</b>								
SD FIT	\$1,043.87			\$2,985.64				
Contract Savings	\$3,168.60							
<b>Restated Fund Cash Balance, January 1, 2021</b>	<b>\$131,332.62</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$16,524.50</b>	<b>\$37,146.36</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>FUND CASH BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$118,827.73</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$21,873.38</b>	<b>\$23,567.01</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>	<b>\$30,734.14</b>	

CONT