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

Company:

Midstate Communications, Inc.

Address:

PO BOX 48

120 East First St

Kimball SD 57355

Telephone number: 605-778-6221

Company contact:

Chad Mutziger

Study Area Code:

391670

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)

Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up within 1st 30 days of service.* (See attached letter.)

Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.

Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. www.midstatesd.net

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Lifeline information is publicized in each of the local Other (describe): newspapers in all of our exchanges, posted on the Midstatesd.net website, publicized in our phone directory and all new and existing customers are sent a letter of notification within the 1st 30 days of getting services.

*Required

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of South Dakota

County of Brule

one

Debi Ruiz of said county, being first duly sworn, on oath, says: That she is the publisher of Central Dakota Times, a weekly newspaper, published in the City of Chamberlain, in said County of Brule and State of South Dakota; that she has full and personal knowledge of the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper as defined in SDCL 17-2-2.1 through 17-2-2.4 inclusive; that said newspaper has been published within the said County of Brule and State of South Dakota, for at least one year next prior to the first publication of the attached public notice and that the Affordable Services Made Available

With lifeline Service Through Midstate Communications

a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published and which is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper for

successive week(s) to wit:

December 22,2021;	,20	;
, 20;	, 20	;
. 20 :	. 20	:

That the full amount of the fee charged for the publication of the attached public notice inures to the sole benefit of the publisher or publishers; that no agreement or understanding for the division thereof has been made with any other person and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever; that the fees charged for the publication thereof are:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

Notary Public In and For The County of Brule, South Dakota

JANET L. PETRAK Notary Public SEAL South Dakota

Affordable Services Made Available With Lifeline Service Through Midstate Communications

Midstate Communications provides basic and enhanced telecommunications, services within its, service area. Basic services are offered at the following rates:

Single Party Residence Service - \$21.95/Month Single Party Business Service - \$27.95/Month*

Single Party Business Service - \$30/Month*

Single party business service monthly fee is determined by availability and location

Local residence and business service includes:

Voice grade access to the public telephone network

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OHICG: 605-730-4214 Broker/Auctioneer. Chlsum Peterson

Chamberlain, SD 57325 P.O. Box 498

310 Sorensen Drive



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: 876

8/13/2021

Dear Customer:

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requires that we notify our customers each year of the availability of the Lifeline Assistance program. To see if you qualify, go to CheckLifeline.org and create an account. If you do not have access to internet, that's no problem. We have a computer set up in our Kimball and our Chamberlain offices for you to use. Stop in anytime during our business hours to see if you qualify.

USAC will contact you by email from LifelineSupport@usac.org or mail from the Lifeline Support Center to let you know if you qualify for Lifeline. Once you qualify for Lifeline Midstate can help you get the monthly discounts. Qualifying documents include a letter from: Supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), Medicaid (Not Medicare), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension, Income based eligibility and Tribal eligibility programs.

If you have questions about Lifeline, the application form or your current services, please contact us at 778-6221 or 234-8000 for more information.

Sincerely, MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Chad Mutziger General Manager

CM/ce

General Rules & Regulations

Federal law requires a 3 percent excise tax on telephone rental and long distance charges. These taxes are billed to all telephone users not specifically exempt by law. All taxes collected are remitted to the proper federal and state agencies.

Allowance For Failure Of Service

The Telephone Companies do not guarantee uninterrupted working of its lines or equipment. In case service is interrupted otherwise than by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber, an adjustment will, upon application by a subscriber, be made in the amount of charges for such service, equipment, and facilities furnished as are rendered useless or inoperative. Any adjustment shall apply only to the period the interruption continues beyond 24 hours after notice of the interruption is received by the Telephone Companies. No other liability shall in any case attach to the Telephone Companies.

Billing & Payment For Service

If you desire assistance or explanation regarding your bill, please call the Business Office.

National Do No 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 if you have an active email address, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), 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.donotoall. gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You will have to know the company's name or phone number to file a "do not call" complaint.

Annoying, Obscene, & Threatening Calls

If you get an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 21 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.

Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone & Broadband Subscribers

Midstate Communications is authorized to offer Lifeline assistance to our customers. The Lifeline Universal Service Program is a government supported program available to qualified, low-income consumers and offers a discount for eligible telephone and bundled Internet service meeting the minimum standards. If you are an existing telephone service subscriber receiving the monthly Lifeline discount, you can continue to apply that discount to your home phone voice service. Effective December of 2019, Lifeline discount amount available for voice only services will begin to decrease. If, however, the Lifeline support provided is applied to a bundled service package which includes not only telephone voice service, but also Internet Service you can avoid these discount decreases and continue receiving the maximum discount, currently \$9.25.

Moving your monthly Lifeline discount so that it also applies to your current bundled service which includes both voice telephone service and Internet service, will generally require that you agree to not transfer your Lifeline benefit to another provider for twelve months. There are certain exceptions to this requirement.

Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

The Tribal Lifeline program provides a reduction in monthly charges to telephone or bundled Internet service to customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program. Eligible subscribers may be eligible for additional discounts up to \$25.

The Tribal Link-Up program provides a reduction in connection charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

How to Qualify for a Lifeline Discount:

You must participate in at least one of the following programs to be eligible for a Lifeline Program discount:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veteran's Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
- Income Below the Federal Poverty Guidelines

If residing on tribal lands the following eligibility criteria is also available to be utilized:

- . Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- · Food Distribution on Indian Reservations
- Head Start

Midstat



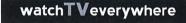


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RelaySD.com







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 Over 150 Channels
- 50Mbps/50Mbps Internet
- Local Voice Service
- Choice of 3 Calling Features

\$12091

Digital Choice Bundle

Quick Connect Bundle

- 50Mbps/50Mbps Internet
- Local Voice
- Choice of 3 Calling Features

\$6877

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Save On Your Internet With Our Senior Discount...

Internet is not just for young kids anymore it's also for the young at heart. That is why Midstate Communications now offers a 10% discount* to our members who subscribe to our Internet service and are 65 years old or older.

*10% discount is for Internet services only and does not apply to phone or video services. Customers must call Midstate to request discount and provide proof of age.

My Midstate Computer Bundles

Midstate Communications can help select the newest computer that will fit your needs. Choose from cost saving computer bundles and more.

More About Our Computer Bundles >



MySecurity by ZoneAlarm®



MySecurity is provided by ZoneAlarm®. ZoneAlarm® Security Suite is an easy-to-use, comprehensive security solution that keeps out hackers, viruses, worms, fraudulent emails and other threats.

More about MySecurity

The Messenger - December 2021

2022-03-03 10:39

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Bandwidth Speed T



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Save Rural Broadband, Send a letter to Congress and the President













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You are here: Telephone / Tribal Lifeline-linkup Assistance

Tribal Lifeline-linkup Assistance

Lifeline-linkup provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

Items covered by the Lifeline portion of the program include basic one-party telephone service equipped with touch-tone and toll restriction (if requested). Not covered are second lines, leased equipment, long distan hearing impaired fund, taxes and optional calling features like Call Waiting and Caller ID.

For further assistance: Contact Us

Midstate Communications Tribal Lifeline Instructions video



Linkup

Provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify. The credit applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone subscriber.

The reduction is up to 100% of the cost associated up to \$100.

Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

Those qualifying for Enhanced Lifeline Program will also qualify for the Link-Up Program which provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.

For further assistance: Contact Us



Eligibility

Applicants must live on tribal lands and participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to qualify:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- BIA General Assistance Programs
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (Meeting Income Test)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Income-Based Criterion (income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension

^{**} Participating members and members of the qualified member's household MUST:

- 1. Be in good standing as a member of the Midstate Communications Cooperative.
- 2. Be current in all payments to Midstate Communications. Customers will be approved on an individual basis upon receipt of properly filed forms.

"Tribal Land" for purposes of the Enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up Assistance Programs includes the BIA definitions of "reservation." The term "reservation" means any federally recognized Indian Tribe's reservation, Pu Allotments.















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You are here: Telephone / Lifeline-linkup

Lifeline-linkup

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Moving your monthly Lifeline discount so that it also applies to your current bundled service which includes both voice telephone service and Internet service, will generally require that you agree to not transfer your I twelve months. There are certain exceptions to this requirement.

For further assistance: Contact Us



Midstate Communications Tribal Lifeline Instructions video



Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

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The Tribal Link-Up program provides a reduction in connection charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

How to Qualify for a Lifeline Discount:

You must participate in at least one of the following programs to be eligible for a Lifeline Program discount:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veteran's Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
- Income Below the Federal Poverty Guidelines

 Food Distribution on Indian Reservations Head Start

Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance

Click Here to Apply

If residing on tribal land's the following eligibility criteria is also available to be utilized

Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Income Requirements

For further assistance: Contact Us















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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:

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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





2a. Your Information

All fields are required unless indicated. Use only CAPITALIZED LETTERS and black ink to fill out this form.

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	rs of your Social Security	Number (SSN)?	Day	Year

*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.





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; Hawaiian Home Lands—areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, et. seq., as amended; and any land designated as such by the FCC for purposes of this subpart pursuant to the designation process in the FCC's Lifeline rules.

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2c. Your Information (continued)

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

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3.

Qualify for Lifeline

Fill out this section to show that you, your dependent, or someone in your household qualifies for Lifeline.

You can qualify through some government assistance programs or through your income (you do not need to qualify through both).

Qualify through a government program:

Check all programs	that you or someone in your household have:
Supplemental N	lutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Food Stamps)
Supplemental S	Security Income (SSI)
Medicaid	
Federal Public F	Housing Assistance (FPHA)
Veterans Pension	n or Survivors Benefit Programs
Tribal Specific Progra	ams
Burea	u of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
Tribal	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
Food I	Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Tribal	Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

Or

Qualify through your income:

(Only fill this out if you do not qualify through a government program.)

Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	Is your income the same or less than the amount listed for you state and household size? (only check yes or no next to your household size)					
	All 48 States, DC, and Territories (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii			
1	\$18,347	\$22,937	\$21,101	Yes	N	
2	\$24,719	\$30,902	\$28,431	Yes	N	
3	\$31,091	\$38,867	\$35,762	Yes	N	
4	\$37,463	\$46,832	\$43,092	Yes	N	
5	\$43,835	\$54,797	\$50,423	Yes	N	
6	\$50,207	\$62,762	\$57,753	Yes	N	
7	\$56,579	\$70,727	\$65,084	Yes	N	
8	\$62,951	\$78,692	\$72,414	Yes	N	
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$6,372	Add \$7,965	Add \$7,331	Yes	N	





4. Agreement

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

You must initial next to each statement.

Signatu	ire	Today's Date
1 4	was truthful about whether or not I am a resident of Tribal la his form.	ands, as defined in section 2 of
(My service provider may have to check whether I still qualify a renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respor removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline benefit wi	nd by the deadline or I will be
1 1	know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to go ounishable by law and can result in fines, jail time, de-enrollme	_
1 1	All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form a of my knowledge.	are true and correct to the best
Initial t	agree that all of the information I provide on this form may be for the purposes of applying for and/or receiving the Lifeline Prothis information is not provided to the Lifeline Program Adminication benefits. If the laws of my state or Tribal government regovernment may share information about my benefits for a que Program Administrator. The information shared by the state on help find out if I can get a Lifeline Program benefit.	ogram benefit. I understand that if istrator, I will not be able to get equire it, I agree that the state or Triba alifying program with the Lifeline
1	I know that my household can only get one Lifeline benefit ar household is not getting more than one Lifeline benefit.	nd, to the best of my knowledge, my
initial	 I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not q program or income anymore. Either I or someone in my household gets more than on than one Lifeline broadband internet service, more than both Lifeline telephone and Lifeline broadband internet 	e Lifeline benefit (including more n one Lifeline telephone service, or
	understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 da	
-	agree that if I move I will give my service provider my new ad	ldress within 30 days.
	orogram(s) listed on this form or my annual household incom Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Federal Poverty (





5. Agent Information

Answer only if a sales person submits this form.

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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 is available at https://www.fcc.gov/managing-director/privacy-transparency/privacy-act-information#systems/.

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.