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

Company: West River Cooperative Telephone Compa

Address:

801 Coleman Ave.

Bison, SD 57620

Telephone number: 605-244-5213

Company contact: Tally Seim

Study Area Code: 391689

Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:

\checkmark	Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)						
\checkmark	Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up within 1 st 30 days of service.* (See attached letter.)						
\checkmark	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.						
\checkmark	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website. sdplains.com						
\checkmark	Company's information posted on USAC website.						
\checkmark	Other (describe):						
*Required							

West River Cooperative Telephone Company Lifeline & Link-Up Advertising/Outreach 2021-2022

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>.

June 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

• Article in newsletter about the Lifeline Program.

January 2022

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

March 2022

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

June 2022

- 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 2022

• 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 28, 2021

Mr. Harold C. Frazier, Tribal Chairman Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Government PO Box 590 Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Mr. Frazier:

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,

Colgan Huber, Interim General Manager CH:klg



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 28, 2021

Mike Faith, Chairman Standing Rock Sioux Tribe PO Box D Fort Yates, ND 58539

Dear Mr. Faith:

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.

Sincerely,

Colgan Huber, Interim General Manager CH/klg

June 2021 NEWSRELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Background

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

What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline lowers the cost of basic monthly local qualifying telephone or broadband service (at least 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 <u>ONE</u> Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

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

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

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary

Calling on You

June 2021

Office Closed

West River Cooperative Telephone Company's office will be closed Monday, July 5th, in observance of Independence Day.



facebook.com/WRCTC

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Scholarship Winners



WRCTC Scholarship Committee, Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient for this scholarship! It will definitely allow me to pursue my degrees more easily! Thanks again,

Zayda Dirk







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

West River Cooperative Telephone Company (WRCTC) and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 20th year to award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools.

Graduating seniors receiving the \$500 scholarships are: Lemmon School District – Zayda Dirk, daughter of Brent and Jenny Dirk, Lemmon; Bison School District – Veronica Voller, daughter of Alan and Karen Voller, Bison; Harding County School District – Logan Kautzman, daughter of Ted and ReAnn Kautzman, Capitol, MT and Newell School District – David Morell, son of Keith and Stacie Morell, Vale. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as 19645 Foster Rd, Meadow; 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.



Kahler Graduates

ERIC KAHLER graduated in 2020 Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Rasmussen University. Commencement was held virtually on April 23, 2021! He spent countless early mornings, late nights and weekends listening to lectures, studying and writing papers. Congratulations, Eric!

Call Before You DIG!



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. Remember, calling 811 is mandatory 18258 Winkler Rd., Newell; and is a step that cannot be skipped. If you have any questions regarding this procedure, call 811 and they will explain the process. From the Mailbox WRCTC, Thank you for thinking of Wayne for the money. It will go for medical expenses and

we are very grateful.

Love,

Wayne and Vicki Barnes WRCTC Roundup Recipient



We are looking for photos for the 2022 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of any form of WEATHER! Frost, lightning, storm clouds, rainbows – Any type of WEATHER you can catch on camera! We want to see the view through your lens!

Please submit your pictures to bschecher@wrctc.coop

This year, all photos are required to be submitted digitally. Digital photos are more vibrant and clear, they keep their quality and are easy to access while designing the directory.

Deadline to enter the 2022 Directory Photo Contest is August 2, 2021.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of a age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit FOUR photos. Photos may be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgment to the photographer. The winners will see their photo on the fort cover of the 2022 directory and will be awarded \$100 cash prize for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.

Lifeline: Affordable **Telephone Service** for Income-Eligible Consumers

Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers in the marketplace. The discounts, which can be applied to stand-



alone broadband, bundled voice-broadband packages - either fixed or mobile - and standalone 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 lowincome consumers across the country. In March of 2016, the FCC modernized Lifeline for advanced services by beginning a transition toward support of broadband service.

How Lifeline Works

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

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income subscribers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal 608 1st Ave E, Lemmon; 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.

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 onetime 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.

(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. Call the office to update your security PO Box 191, Buffalo; questions or update via SmartHub.

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

Lemmon Chase, D.I. (Corky)

374-6100

<u>Meadow</u> Dauwen, Taylor

788-2299

<u>Sorum</u> Wells, Tate & Bobbi

866-4804

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 Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you find YOUR address, all you have to do



is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your telephone bill. Changes of address in the New WRCTC Members section do not count. **Deadline is June 25, 2021.**

Lifeline (continued)

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

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

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at <u>www.wrctc.coop</u>. Submit applications to:

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

EBB Program

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides a discount of up to \$50 per month



toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can enroll directly with the Universal Service Adminis-

trative Company (USAC) by visiting the website https:// getemergencybroadband.org or by a mail in application. Paper applications can be printed from the website (https://getemergencybroadband.org) or you can call or stop by our office to pick one up. Paper applications must be mailed directly to the USAC office for approval. The program will end when the fund runs out of money, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares PO Box 32, Nisland; an end to the COVID-19 health emergency, whichever is sooner. You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc. gov/broadbandbenefit, or by calling 833-511-0311.

Lifeline

Receive up to \$9.25 off your phone or Internet service

Lifeline is a federal program that helps lower the monthly cost of your phone or Internet service.*

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

You qualify for a discount if:

- You participate in any **ONE** of these government benefit programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - OR -
- Your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

A household is a group of people that share income and expenses.

- You are only allowed to get one Lifeline discount per household.
- If you share housing, complete the **Household Worksheet**.
- The worksheet is available on our website, LifelineSupport.org. You can also ask your Lifeline service provider.

THREE WAYS TO APPLY





CONTACT A PHONE OR INTERNET COMPANY Find a company that provides Lifeline at **LifelineSupport.org.** Click *Companies Near Me.*

If you live in **CA (CaliforniaLifeline.com)**, **OR (Lifeline. Oregon.gov)**, or **TX (TexasLifeline.org)**, visit the website for your state to find out how to apply.

HOW TO SHOW YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

You may need to show proof that you qualify for Lifeline, such as:

- A copy of your SNAP or program letter OR
- A copy of your pay stub or tax return to prove your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

*If you live on Tribal Lands, you may receive an additional discount toward your service. If you have a disability and need assistance with your application, contact the Lifeline Support Center.



LIFELINE SUPPORT CENTER (800) 234-9473 9 AM-9 PM ET 7 DAYS PER WEEK LifelineSupport@usac.org www.LifelineSupport.org

Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help make communications services more affordable for eligible consumers. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the Lifeline program. USAC is responsible for helping you apply for the program, understand eligibility requirements, and keep your benefit current through an annual recertification process.

Available for Public Use

June 2022 N E W S R E L E A S E

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Background

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

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

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

Tribal Link Up provides eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary



OFFIGE GLOSED

West River Cooperative Telephone Company will be closed Monday, July 4, 2022 in observance of Independence Day.





facebook.com/WRCTC Leave us a Review!

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West River Cooperative Telephone Company

Calling on You 2022 Scholarship Winners

West River Cooperative Telephone Company and Grand Electric Cooperative teamed together for the 21st year to award \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors from area school districts. WRCTC and Grand Electric sponsor this scholarship program to help serve as an investment in the economic future of our rural area. It is used to recognize and encourage the academic achievements of students in the areas we serve. Winners have been awarded their certificates at the Academic Awards programs at their respective schools. Congratulations Class of 2022!



SYDNEE KJELLSEN, daughter of John and Tanya Kjellsen, graduated May 21, 2022, from Newell High School. Ranked 1 of 13 in her class, Sydnee graduated with a 4.3 GPA. She plans to attend Black Hills State University to study Elementary Education with a minor in Reading and Coaching. Sydnee has been involved in many extracurricular activities such as volleyball, basketball, track, Student Council, National Honor Society, FFA, Leo's Club, S.A.D.D., One Acts, drama, Teens Against Tobacco Use and last but certainly not least, Sydnee completed 27 dual credit college courses. Once graduated, Sydnee plans to move to a rural area where she hopes to become a teacher and coach in her community.

TAYLOR THOMPSON, daughter of Scott and Angie Thompson, graduated May 14, 2022, from Bison High School. Ranked 1 of 12 in her class, Taylor graduated with a 4.2 GPA. She plans to attend North Dakota State University and will major in Pharmacy. Taylor was involved in many activities during high school such as chorus, band, Student Council, FCCLA, National Honor Society, basketball, track, volleyball, church activities, volunteering, and donating time to Feeding America. Once Taylor graduates, she hopes to find a job in retail, pediatrics, or a nursing home pharmacy. She would like to start in a larger area in North Dakota or South Dakota to gain experience and eventually make her way back closer to her family in Bison.





TALON TROGSTAD, son of Vance and Tina Trogstad, graduated May 15, 2022 from Lemmon High School. Ranked 2 of 15 in his class, Talon graduated with a 4.0 GPA. He plans to attend Black Hills State University, where he will major in Business Management with a minor in Sports Science. Talon participated in many extracurricular activities throughout his high school career such as Academic Olympics, Quiz Bowl, holding the title of Class Secretary, National Honor Society, basketball, track, football and a lot of volunteer work. Upon college graduation, Talon will return to Lemmon to work under his father at Stock's Electric. Here he will gain the experience he needs to one day take over the family business. Talon hopes to coach, referee and volunteer his time to help Lemmon's athletic programs, which have made a big impact on his life.

KARLIN TEIGEN, daugter of Matthew and Tracy Teigen, graduated from Harding County High School on May 14, 2022. She ranked 4 of 14 in her class and graduated with a 3.8 GPA. She plans to attend the University of Wyoming and major in Kinesiology with a minor in finance. Karlin participated in many activities during high school such as, National Honor Society, Student Council, volleyball, basketball, rodeo, FFA, 4-H, Youth Group, Academic Olympics, church events, Youth Bible School and found the time to volunteer. Once Karlin graduates, she plans to become a chiropractor. Her long term goal is to open her own practice in a rural community and help care for her future patients.





KAYCEE GROVES, daughter of Buffy Groves and Kevin Groves, graduated May 14, 2022, from Faith High School. She ranked 1 of 12 and graduated with a 4.1 GPA. Kaycee will be attending Black Hills State University in the Fall where she will major in Exercise Science/ Pre-Physical Therapy. Kaycee spent a lot of time in extracurricular PO Box 191, Vale; activities including, basketball, volleyball, Academic Olympics, Quiz Bowl, rodeo, National Honor Society, and also made time for community service. Once Kaycee's prerequisites are complete, she plans to attend physical therapy school where she will earn her doctorate degree. She hopes to eventually become a physical therapist for a college or professional basketball team.

COMMANDIQ

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ME?

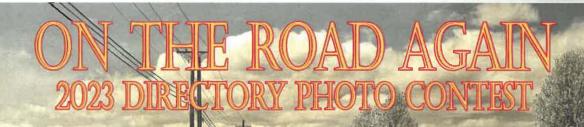
In the next few months, we will cover COMMANDIQ, PROTECTIQ AND EXPERIENCEIQ and discuss WHY these 13399 SD Hwy 79, Reva; options are beneficial to YOU!

COMMANDIQ is a FREE application on your smart device that allows YOU to control your internet! It's like a remote for your Wi-Fi - HOW COOL IS THAT?! While running the app from the palm of your hand, you can change Wi-Fi passwords and Wi-Fi Network names, run speed tests, turnWi-Fi on and off for specific devices and get notifications when a new or unknown device connects to your network! Did I mention it's FREE?! Having access to your internet wherever you are gives YOU the power!

There are so many benefits to the COMMANDIQ App! The list goes on and on! Call the office today for more information!

- **COMMANDIQ** is available to all Managed Wi-Fi subscribers. **PROTECTIQ** and **EXPERIENCEIQ** require our GigaSpire.
- Already have a GigaCenter? Call us today to upgrade to a GigaSpire for FREE!!





We are looking for photos for the 2023 WRCTC Directory. The photos can be of any kind of ROAD! Dirt roads, paved roads, winding roads – Any type of ROAD you can capture on camera! We want to see the view through your lens!

Please submit your pictures to bschecher@wrctc.coop

WRCTC requires that all photos be submitted digitally. Digital photos are more vibrant and clear, they keep their quality and are easy to access while designing the directory. * We will not crop your photos for the contest, they will be used as is.

Deadline to enter the 2023 Directory Photo Contest is August 1, 2022.

PHOTO CONTEST RULES: The photo must be an original taken by a WRCTC member. If the photo contains a person who is highly recognizable and it is chosen as a winner, a picture permission form must be signed by the individual. If the subject is under 18 years of a age, a parent/guardian must sign prior to receiving the money. Each customer may submit FOUR photos. Photos may be submitted on a computer disc or e-mailed as a jpeg or pdf file. Submission of the photo releases all right of ownership of the photo and authorizes WRCTC to publish the photo on the directory cover, or use as WRCTC desires, allowing proper acknowledgment to the photographer. The winners will see their photo on the front cover of the 2023 directory and will be awarded \$100 cash prize for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Employees and Directors are not eligible.



Lifeline is the FCC's program to help make communications service more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline provides subscribers a discount on monthly telephone and/or broadband services purchased from participating providers 11650 209th Ave, Keldron; 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 lowincome consumers can afford 21st-century broadband and the access it provides to jobs, education and opportunities.

The History of Lifeline

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

How Lifeline Works

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

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

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

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



Lifeline information continued on pg. 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. Call the office to update your security questions or update via SmartHub.

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 14098 Limpert Rd, Buffalo; 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

Lemmon	
Beer, Quirt	374-1089
Comme	
Sorum	
Gruwell, Cody	866-4697
Phone Number Change	
Mininger, Brent & Anne	from: 257-5177
•	to: 456-1906

New Employee

Brett Peacock is originally from Sioux City, Iowa and recently decided he wanted to move closer to family. He made the move back to Bison and began work with West River Cooperative Telephone Company on May 2, 2022. He was a hired as a Combination Technician and

will be maintaining and installing Fiber and Telecom pathways. Brett previously worked for Thompson Teledata where he gained a lot of experience and knowledge. He also worked at K -T, which is why he may look familiar 12973 Schmele Rd, Newell; to some of you. He graduated from West High School in Iowa and then went on to Western Iowa Tech Community College to earn his degree.

Brett is excited to be back in the Bison area. He is finally close to family and is back in his element. His parents are Jason and Wendy Peacock and he has two brothers, Branden and Ben. When Brett is not working, he enjoys fishing, shooting his guns and playing the guitar. WELCOME to the crew, Brett!

Find Your Address

Five addresses were hidden in the last newsletter. Hidden in this issue are five new addresses. If you

find YOUR address, all you have to do is notify our office. The \$20 will then be deducted off your next telephone bill. Changes of address in the New



WRCTC Members section do not count. Deadline is June 24, 2022.

Lifeline: (continued)

How Tribal Link Up Works?

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

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

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

How Do I Sign Up for Lifeline?

If you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. You can find the application online at <u>www.wrctc.coop</u>. Submit applications to:

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

SECURE PAY

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

Available 24/7!



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

What type of discount is available?

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

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

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

How do I know whether I am eligible?

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

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

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

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

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

How do I apply to receive Lifeline and Link Up?

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

West River Cooperative Telephone Company PO Box 39 Bison, SD 57620 605-244-5213

Lifeline

Receive up to \$9.25 off your phone or Internet service

Lifeline is a federal program that helps lower the monthly cost of your phone or Internet service.*

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

You qualify for a discount if:

- You participate in any ONE of these government benefit programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - OR -
- Your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines

HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

A household is a group of people that share income and expenses.

- You are only allowed to get one Lifeline discount per household.
- If you share housing, complete the **Household Worksheet**.
- The worksheet is available on our website, LifelineSupport.org. You can also ask your Lifeline service provider.

THREE WAYS TO APPLY





CONTACT A PHONE OR INTERNET COMPANY Find a company that provides Lifeline at LifelineSupport.org. Click Companies Near Me.

If you live in **CA** (**CaliforniaLifeline.com**), **OR** (**Lifeline. Oregon.gov**), or **TX** (**TexasLifeline.org**), visit the website for your state to find out how to apply.

HOW TO SHOW YOU ARE ELIGIBLE

You may need to show proof that you qualify for Lifeline, such as:

- A copy of your SNAP or program letter OR
- A copy of your pay stub or tax return to prove your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

*If you live on Tribal Lands, you may receive an additional discount toward your service. If you have a disability and need assistance with your application, contact the Lifeline Support Center.



LIFELINE SUPPORT CENTER (800) 234-9473 | 9 AM-9 PM ET | 7 DAYS PER WEEK LifelineSupport@usac.org | www.LifelineSupport.org

Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help make communications services more affordable for eligible consumers. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the Lifeline program. USAC is responsible for helping you apply for the program, understand eligibility requirements, and keep your benefit current through an annual recertification process.

Telephone Service Information - (Cont'd)

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Lifeline: Affordable Telephone Service for Income-Eligible Consumers

Background

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

What Benefits are Available Under the Lifeline Program?

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. An eligible customer 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 wireline or a wireless 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 support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.

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

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.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

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

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

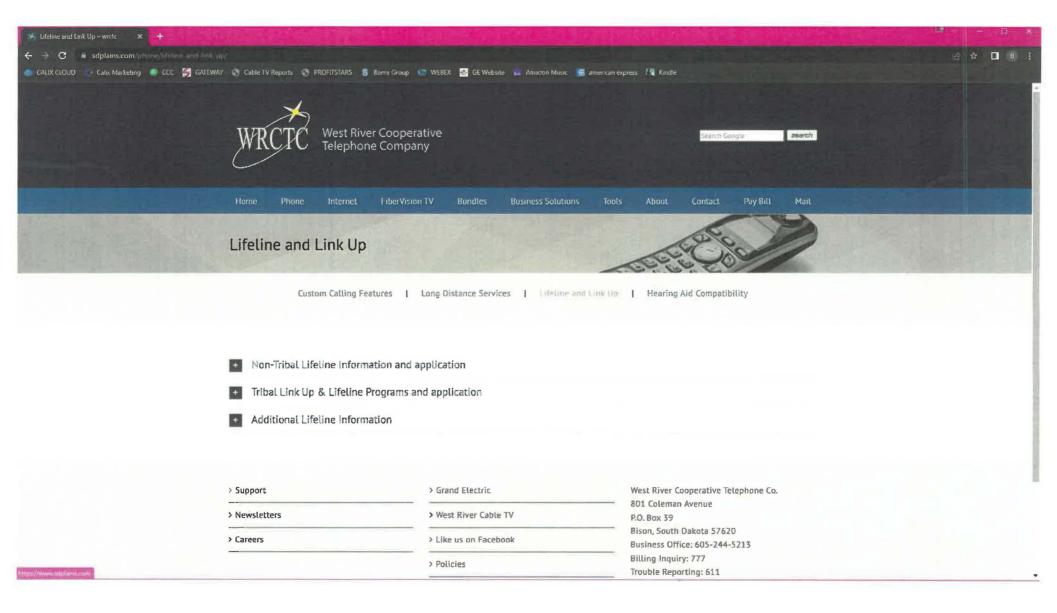
TRIBAL-SPECIFIC PROGRAMS:

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

When you qualify for any of the above programs, you must complete a Lifeline Assistance Application. For more information please contact our office at 605-244-5213 or 777.



West River Cooperative Telephone Co., Bison, SD





Companies near 57620

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 25 of 44 companies

	Print List	Download List:	CET XL1 POT
Company Name 🔻	Phone	Type of Service	State
Ztar Mobile, Inc	800-416-3003	ACP Mobile Internet	SD
West River Telecom	800-748-7220	Fixed Lifeline Service	SD
West River Cooperative Telephone Company	605-244-5213	ACP Home Internet	SD
Viasat	855-463-9333	ACP Home Internet	SD
Verizon Wireless	800-922-0204	ACP Home Internet	SD
Verizon Wireless	800-922-0204	ACP Mobile	SD



1. About Lifeline

Lifeline is a federal benefit that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service.

Rules

If you qualify, your household can get Lifeline for phone or internet service, but not both.

- If you get Lifeline for phone service, you can get the benefit for one mobile phone or one home phone, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone or your home connection, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for bundled phone and internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone bundled service or your home bundled service, but not both.

Your household cannot get Lifeline from more than one phone or internet company.

You are only allowed to get one Lifeline benefit per household, **not per person**. If more than one person in your household gets Lifeline, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

What is a household?

A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses (even if they are not related to each other).

Do not give your benefit to another person

Lifeline is non-transferable. You cannot give your Lifeline benefit to another person, even if they qualify.

Be honest on this form

You must give accurate and true information on this form and on all Lifeline-related forms or questionnaires. If you give false or fraudulent information, you will lose your Lifeline benefit (i.e., de-enrollment or being barred from the program) and the United States government can take legal actions against you. This may include (but is not limited to) fines or imprisonment.

You may need to show other documents

You will need to show your phone or internet company an official document from one of the government qualifying programs or prove your annual income. Please provide copies of your official documents with this application. Include the documents in option 1 or option 2 below:

- If you qualify through a government program: copies of your state ID card and an official document from the program you are qualifying through (your SNAP card, Medicaid card, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit letter, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) award letter, or other accepted documents).
- 2. If you qualify through your income: copies of your state ID card and your last state, federal, or Tribal tax return, pay stubs for 3 consecutive months, or other accepted documents. Visit lifelinesupport.org to see the full list of accepted documents.

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

Apply

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

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

enTouch Wireless PO Box 37 Hiawatha, IA 52233



2. Your Information

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

What is your full legal name? The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security	Card or State ID. Not a nickname	
irst		
/iddle (optional)	Suffix	(optional)
ast		
.ast		
What is your phone number (if you have one)?	What is your date of birth?	
	Month Day Year	
What is your email address (if you have one)?		
What are the last 4 numbers of your Social Security I	Number (SSN)?	
f you do not have a SSN, what is your Tribal Identification Numbe	er?	
What is the best way to reach you?		
email phone text messa	age 🗌 mail	



2. Your Information (continued)

*Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma; Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688); Indian allotments; Hawaiian Home Lands—areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, et. seq., as amended; and any land designated as such by the Commission for purposes of this subpart pursuant to the designation process in the FCC's Lifeline rules.

Street Number a	and Name																	
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Apt., Unit, etc.			C	City														
State	Zip Code																	
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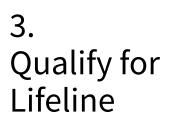
2. Your Information (continued)

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

Check if you are qualifying through a child or dependent in your household. If so, answer the following questions:													
What is their full legal name?													
First			_]		
Middle (optiona	al)		_						 	Suffix	(opti	onal)	
Last													
What is the	eir date of	birth?											
Month	Day	Year						_	 	 _			
What are the last 4 numbers of their Social Security Number (SSN)?													
If they do not h	nave a SSN, w	/hat is their Trib	oal Identifio	cation Nu	umber	?			 				







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

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

Qualify through a government program:

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

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

Tribal Specific Programs



Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance

- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

Or

Qualify through your income:

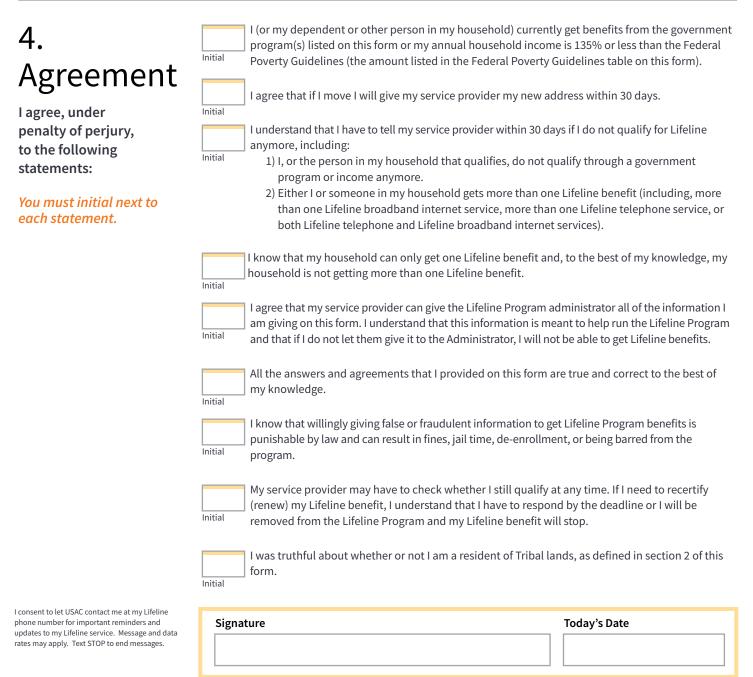
(Only fill this out if you do not qualify through a government program.)

Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	Is your income the s state and household (only check yes or no next to	d size?		ount listed fo	or your
	All 48 States & DC (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii		
1	\$16,862	\$21,060	\$19,413	Yes	No
2	\$22,829	\$28,526	\$26,271	Yes	No
3	\$28,796	\$35,991	\$33,129	Yes	No
4	\$34,763	\$43,457	\$39,987	Yes	No
5	\$40,730	\$50,922	\$46,845	Yes	No
6	\$46,697	\$58,388	\$53,703	Yes	No
7	\$52,664	\$65,853	\$60,561	Yes	No
8	\$58,631	\$73,319	\$67,419	Yes	No
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$5,967	Add \$7,466	Add \$6,858	Yes	No

135% of the 2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines

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





FCC FORM 5629

Lifeline Program **Application Form**



5.	What is the agent's full legal name? The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security Card	or State ID. Not a nickname.
Agent Information		
Information	First	
Answer only if a sales person submits this form.	Middle (optional) Last	Suffix (optional)
	What is the agent's ID number?	What is the agent's date of birth?
		Month Day Year





Notice

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Section 54.410 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules requires all Lifeline subscribers to demonstrate their eligibility to receive Lifeline services. This collection of information stems from the Commission's authority under Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.). The data provided in response to this information collection will be used by USAC to verify the applicant's eligibility for Lifeline services.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, between 0.25 and 0.75 hours. Our estimate includes the time to read the questions, look through existing records, gather the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write to the Federal Communications Commission, OMD-PERM, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0819), Washington, D.C. 20554. We also will accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to PRA@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND COMPLETED DATA COLLECTION FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Remember – You are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the Federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. This collection has been assigned an OMB control number of 3060-0819.

The Commission is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect the information we request on this form. If we believe there may be a violation or potential violation of a statute or a Commission regulation, rule, or order, your response may be referred to the Federal, state, or local agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order.

If you do not provide the information we request on this form, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.

The foregoing Notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, P.L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The Privacy Act is a law that requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to explain why we are asking individuals for personal information and what we are going to do with this information after we collect it.

Authority: Section 254 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 254), as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254, authorizes the FCC to operate the Lifeline program. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.).

Purpose: We are collecting this personal information so we can verify that you qualify for the Lifeline program and so we can efficiently provide Lifeline services to you. We access, maintain and use your personal information in the manner described in the Lifeline System of Records Notice (SORN), FCC/WCB-1, which we have published in 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

Routine Uses: We may share the personal information you enter into this form with other parties for specific purposes, such as: with contractors that help us operate the Lifeline program; with other federal and state government agencies that help us determine your Lifeline eligibility; with the telecommunications companies that provide you Lifeline service; and with law enforcement and other officials investigating potential violations of Lifeline rules.

A complete listing of the ways we may use your information is published in the Lifeline SORN described in the "Purpose" paragraph of this statement.

Disclosure: You are not required to provide the information we are requesting, but if you do not, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.