

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2023**

Company: Midstate Communications, Inc.

Address: 120 E First St

Kimball SD 57355

Telephone number: 6057786221

Company contact: Kathy Taylor

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Company's information posted on USAC website.

Other (describe):

\*Required

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

State of South Dakota

ss.

County of Brule

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

one successive week(s) to wit:  
July 27, 2022 ; \_\_\_\_\_, 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 (and may be viewed free of charge at [www.sdpublicnotices.com](http://www.sdpublicnotices.com)):

\$ 163.<sup>20</sup>

Signed: Debi Ruiz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31<sup>st</sup> day

of July, 2022

Janet L. Petrak  
Notary Public In and For The County of Brule,  
South Dakota



My commission expires June 23, 2028

**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	\$30.00/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.
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge.
- Access to 911 emergency services.
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.

Lifeline Assistance Programs are available for qualifying subscribers. These programs provide a monthly service discount on voice and now on bundled broadband services. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available with the Lifeline Program.

To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have a household income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household must receive benefits from one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Income-Based Eligibility
- The Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension Benefit

A subscriber who lives on tribal lands and is an eligible resident of tribal lands is eligible for tribal Lifeline service if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following tribal-specific federal assistance programs – Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance For Needy Families; head start (if income eligibility criteria are met) or the Food Distribution Program On Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Midstate Communications' voice and bundled broadband services are Lifeline-supported services. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in Midstate's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunications services, please call Midstate's office at 605-778-6221.



P.O. Box 48  
Kimball, SD 57355  
[www.midstatesd.net](http://www.midstatesd.net)

Central Dakota Times  
 PO Box 125  
 Chamberlain, SD 57325

# Invoice

Date 7/31/2022  
 Invoice # 57600

**Bill To**  
 MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS  
 PO BOX 48  
 KIMBALL, SD 57355

**Ship To**  
 MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS  
 PO BOX 48  
 KIMBALL, SD 57355

P.O. #  
 Terms Net 30

Ship Date 7/31/2022  
 Due Date 8/30/2022  
 Other

Item	Description	INCHES/QUANTITY	Price	Amount
DISPLAY	JULY 27, 2022, 24" AFFORDABLE SERVICES/LIFELINE DISPLAY AD ORDERED BY LORI LAFFERTY	24	6.80	163.20

APPROVED FOR PAYMENT  
 DATE 8-4-22  
 BY KR

V IN= 1004  
 AIC= 6623.32  
 Lifeline Ad

RECEIVED  
 AUG - 3 2022  
 MIDSTATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

We do accept credit cards as a form of payment. There is a non-cash adjustment fee of 3.5%. Thanks!

Subtotal	\$163.20
Sales Tax (6.5%)	\$0.00
Total	\$163.20
Payments/Credits	\$0.00
Balance Due	\$163.20

Central Dakota Times  
 cdt@midstatesd.net

605-234-0266  
 Fax 605-234-1266



8/5/2022

EF & TINA PAWLOWSKI  
35850 221ST ST  
GANN VALLEY, SD 57341-5900

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](http://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](mailto: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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Mutziger", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chad Mutziger  
General Manager

# General Rules & Regulations

## Taxes

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

## Allowance For Failure Of Service

Telephone Companies do not guarantee uninterrupted service 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, and facilities furnished as are rendered useless or unproductive. Any adjustment shall apply only to the period of interruption continues beyond 24 hours after notice of interruption is received by the Telephone Companies. No liability shall in any case attach to the Telephone Companies.

## Billing & Payment For Service

For assistance or explanation regarding your bill, call the Business Office.

## National Do No Call Registry

Federal government created the National Do Not Call Registry to make it easier and more efficient for you to stop most telemarketing sales calls you don't want. You can register online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) if you have an email address, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-TY 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.

You will receive telemarketing calls after you have registered your telephone number and it has been in the registry for 30 months, you can file a complaint at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You will need to know the company's name or phone number to file a "do not call" complaint.

## Reporting, Obscene, & Threatening Calls

At an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 21 for instructions on using Caller 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 permits such calls to be made over a telephone in his/her control may be fined or imprisoned, or both.

## Telephone Assistance Programs

### 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