

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2024**

Company: Venture Communications Cooperative

Address: 218 Commercial Ave SE  
PO Box 157  
Highmore, SD 57345

Telephone number: 605-852-2224

Company contact: Mary Knox

Study Area Code: 391680

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. www.venturecomm.net
- Company's information posted on USAC website.
- Other (describe):

\*Required

## Lifeline

**Lifeline and Toll Blocking** support is available from Venture Communications. These programs provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service.

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly broadband and/or local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

**Toll Blocking** prevents the placement of all long-distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll Blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

Customers are eligible if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension or Survivors Pension

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Venture Communications voice and 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.

To apply for this low-income assistance, please go to the National Lifeline website at [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org), or contact Venture Communications at 605.852.2224 for further information.



## Lifeline and Link-Up Programs

Venture Communications is proud to have helped many customers this past year through the FCC's Lifeline Link-Up Program, providing discounted installation and monthly telephone service to qualifying consumers.

### Lifeline

You may be eligible for the Lifeline Program, up to \$9.25 monthly savings if you are a participant in at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit.

In addition, you may be eligible for the monthly savings if your household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. The current qualifying income levels range from \$19,683 for a single person household to \$68,256 for a family of eight.

### Enhanced Lifeline

The Enhanced Lifeline Program provides telephone service to anyone who lives on tribal lands. It expands the eligibility requirements listed under the Lifeline Program to also include participation in: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance programs, Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Tribal Head Start, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

### Link Up

Another Federal Program, Link-Up, provides for financial assistance with no connection charges for new customers living on tribal land.

If you meet the eligibility requirement, you can apply 1 of 2 ways:

1. For a quicker response — complete your application online at [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)
2. Mail your paper application to the Lifeline Support Center.

Applications are available online at [lifelinesupport.org](http://lifelinesupport.org) or at your local Venture Communications office. If you have any questions about Lifeline or Link-Up, call us at 605-852-2224.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE

### TO APPLY FOR NEW SERVICE OR CHANGE YOUR SERVICE PLEASE CALL

Venture Communications Cooperative

1-605-852-2224 or Toll Free 1-800-824-7282

Visit [www.venturecomm.net](http://www.venturecomm.net) to view services available in your area.

#### To Report Trouble

When reporting trouble to our service desk or off-hours answering service, please provide the following information:

1. Your full name and street address.
2. Your telephone number or account number.
3. What the trouble is.
4. If possible, a telephone number where you can be reached.

#### Report Trouble Immediately

If you experience service trouble, call our business office by dialing 605-852-2224 or 800-824-7282 as soon as possible. Venture will not know you are without service unless reported. Outside of our normal business hours, our headquarters telephones are answered by an After Hours Service who will notify the specific personnel "on call" for that area. All attempts are made to repair telephone trouble within the first 24 hours of being reported.

#### Customer Assurance Plan

Nobody likes to worry about what might happen. That's why we have developed our *Customer Assurance Plan* to protect you in case of the unexpected. If you have trouble with the telephone wiring or installed jacks inside your home or business, our technicians will repair the problem at no cost to you. Without this protection, a problem in the wiring within your house will cost you time and materials, which can quickly run into a large sum of money. Don't wait!! Call our office today at 605-852-2224 or 1-800-824-7282 to have our *Customer Assurance Plan* placed on your line.

## LIFELINE & ENHANCED LIFELINE DISCOUNTS

The federal government, through Venture Communications offers a program to its low-income subscribers that results in a rate reduction on monthly services. Subscribers who participate in any of the following programs also qualify for participation in the federal Lifeline program:

Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
formerly known as Food Stamps  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)  
Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension



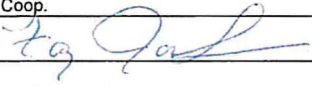
In addition, a subscriber may qualify for this program if their household income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Participation in any of the above programs as well as some tribal assistance programs will qualify a subscriber living on tribal lands for the Enhanced Lifeline program.

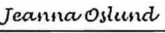
For additional information and applications form, please go to [www.checklifeline.org](http://www.checklifeline.org) or contact our office at 800-824-7282.



**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING FCC FORM 507 ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:**

Certification of Officer or Employee to Authorize an Agent to File FCC Form 507, Line Count Report for Connect America Fund, on Behalf of Reporting Carrier				
<p>I certify that John Staurulakis Inc. (JSI) is authorized to submit the information reported on FCC Form 507 on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer or employee of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the actual line count data provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the actual line count data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.</p> <p>I certify that I am authorized to submit the information reported on this form on behalf of the reporting carrier; that I have provided the information reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and to the best of my knowledge the information reported herein is accurate.</p>				
Name of Authorized Agent John Staurulakis Inc. (JSI)				
Name of Reporting Carrier Venture Comm. Coop.				
Signature of authorized officer or employee 				Date 6/12/2024
Printed name of authorized officer or employee Fay Jandreau				
Title or position of authorized officer or employee CEO / General Manager				
Email address of authorized officer or employee fayj@venture.coop				
Telephone number of authorized officer or employee: 605-852-2224				
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier	391680	Filing Due Date for this form (mm/dd/yyyy)	7/1/2024	
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.				

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:**

Certification of Agent Authorized to File FCC Form 507, Line Count Report for Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support Mechanism, on Behalf of Reporting Carrier				
<p>I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the information reported on FCC Form 507 on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the line count data reported herein based on actual line count data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate. I also certify that I will provide copies of the line count filing to the reporting carrier within 15 days.</p>				
Name of Reporting Carrier Venture Comm. Coop.				
Name of Authorized Agent John Staurulakis Inc. (JSI)				
Signature of authorized agent or employee of agent 				Date 6/10/24
Printed name of authorized agent or employee of agent Jeanna Oslund				
Title or position of authorized agent or employee of agent Consultant				
Email address of authorized agent or employee of agent jeanna.oslund@jsitel.com				
Telephone number of authorized agent: (651) 691 - 4512				
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier	391680	Filing Due Date for this form (mmdyyy)	7/1/2024	
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.				