

Docket Number: TC24-034
Subject Matter: First Data Request
Request to: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (CRSTTA)
Request from: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff
Date of Request: July 12, 2024
Responses Due: July 26, 2024

PUBLIC REDACTED

1-1. Refer to the Exhibit A Attachment filed in this docket and Exhibit B filed in TC22-041. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Response 1-1: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1-2. Refer to the Attachment to Exhibit A. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Response 1-2: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1-3. Refer to the Exhibit A Attachment filed in TC23-047. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Response 1-3: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1-4. [REDACTED]

Response 1-4: [REDACTED]

1-5. [REDACTED]

Response 1-5: [REDACTED]

1-6. Refer to CRSTTA’s response to data request 1-1 in docket TC23-047. Provide an update on CRSTTA’s efforts to obtain self-certification with the FCC and USAC.

Response 1-6: CRSTTA has not received an update since the reply comments were filed with the FCC in February 2024, where they were listed as “disseminated”.

1-7. Provide a copy of Exhibit D that has a notary seal that can be clearly seen online.

Response 1-7: Please see attached.

1-8. Refer to the customer letter on page 2 of the Lifeline/Tribal Link Up Advertising Outreach Annual Report. Provide an updated letter with the 2024 federal poverty guidelines that uses the 135 percent guideline. (It appears the filed letter uses the 100 percent guidelines.)

Response 1-8: Please see attached.

EXHIBIT D

Affidavit

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF DEWEY)

1. I am the General Manager of Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority and am authorized to give this affidavit on behalf of the Company. This affidavit is provided to support the Company's Request for Certification to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission as contemplated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314.

2. As an authorized representative of the Company, I hereby affirm familiarity with and an understanding of the requirements of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the USF/ICC Transformation Order of 2011 the USF Transformation Order of 2016, and subsequent FCC Orders which apply voice and broadband service obligations as a condition to receiving support under the various types of federal high-cost support, including: Interstate Access Support, Connect America Fund ICC, Interstate Common Line Support/Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support or High Cost Loop Support.

3. During 2023, the Company received federal high cost universal service support as shown on Confidential Exhibit A to the Company's Annual ETC Certification Filing and had investment and expenses relating to the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which such support was intended as also shown on Confidential Exhibit A. During 2023, the Company used the federal high cost universal service support it received only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support was intended consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).

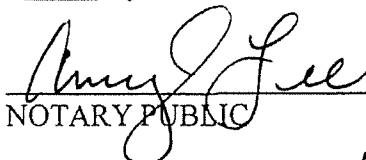
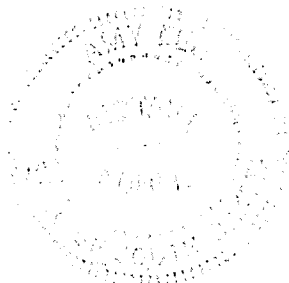
4. The Company certifies that it will use the federal high cost universal service support it receives during 2025 only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254(e).

5. The Company certifies that it (A) is in compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules; and (B) is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in §20:10:32:43:03.



General Manager

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 27th day of June 2024.



NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 4/22/28



Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Telephone Authority

Dear C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority Customer,

Please read this letter carefully.

Individuals who reside on tribal lands and meet the eligibility criteria may qualify for discounts [on the telephone bill] through **Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up programs**. Tribal lands are defined as any federally-recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony; Indian Allotments; and areas that fall outside the boundaries of existing Tribal lands but have been designated by the Federal Communications Commission as Tribal lands for the purpose of receiving Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up support.

Tribal Lifeline helps eligible residents of tribal lands save up to \$34.25 on their monthly phone bill. The discount applies to wireline or wireless residential telephone service plans and is limited to one line per household. **Tribal Link Up** provides a one-time discount for the connection or activation charge for new telephone service at the applicant's primary residence. The discount is a 100 percent reduction, up to \$100, of the customary charge to initiation of service (up to \$200) on a deferred schedule, interest free.

Eligible consumers may also be able to sign up for free toll blocking or toll limitation service that either blocks or limits long-distance calls from your phone.

Both programs have eligibility requirements. You may qualify if you, one or more of your dependents, or your household participates in any of the following programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid (example, Title XIX/Medical State Supplemental Assistance)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension & Survivors Benefits 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)

2024 Federal Services Poverty Guidelines	
Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)
1	\$20,331
2	\$27,594
3	\$34,857
4	\$42,120
5	\$49,383
6	\$56,646
7	\$63,909
8	\$71,172
<i>For each additional person after 8, add \$7,263 to the annual guideline.</i>	

Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up Telephone Assistance Programs

Proof of Eligibility

If you qualify for Tribal Lifeline or Tribal Link Up based on income, you may be asked to provide proof of your income. The following documents are acceptable proof:

- Last year's state, federal or tribal tax return
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
- A Social Security statement of benefits
- A Veterans Administration statement of benefits
- A retirement/pension statement of benefits
- An Unemployment/Worker's Compensation statement of benefits
- A federal or tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information

If the prospective subscriber presents documentation of income that does not cover a full year, such as current pay stubs, the prospective subscriber must present the same type of documentation covering three consecutive months within the previous 12 months.

If you qualify for Tribal Lifeline or Tribal Link Up based on **program-based eligibility**, you may be asked to provide proof of your eligibility. The following documents are acceptable proof:

- The current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying assistance program
- A notice or letter of participation from a qualifying assistance program
- Program participation documents
- An official document demonstrating the prospective subscriber, one or more of the prospective subscriber's dependents or the prospective subscriber's household receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

To apply for the Lifeline benefit, you can: (1) apply online by going to the National Verifier consumer portal at **CheckLifeline.org** and creating an account; (2) you can send an application by mail to **Lifeline Support Center, PO box 7081, London, KY 40742**; or (3) you can contact **C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority** for assistance with your application.

Important information

- Not all telephone providers in South Dakota offer the Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up discounts.
- Tribal Lifeline is available on only one line per household. A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals living together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. A household may include related and unrelated persons.
- Tribal Lifeline and Tribal Link Up discounts cannot be applied to past due telephone bills.
- It can take up to two months for the discounts to show up on your bill as a credit. You must pay the bill until that time.
- Tribal Link Up will not cover the cost of a phone or wiring your home.

You must notify C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority when you no longer qualify for the program.

Sincerely,

C.R.S.T. Telephone Authority