

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

Company:

Address:

Telephone number:

Company contact:

Study Area Code:

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



with the market the way it is, it has been a challenge. We keep waiting for it to level off and it has yet to happen.

Besides the increases, three townships were up for revaluation this past summer. This is still working off of the revaluation of the county that was started in 2008. Before that, the last revaluation was done in 1992. Big Springs, Sioux Valley and Virginia were the townships that were done this summer. Emmet and Prairie township will be done this coming summer and will complete that revaluation. One thing to keep in mind regarding revaluation is that if a building permit was not taken out on that home, it probably hasn't been reassessed since 1992. In that time most homes have been remodeled, new roof, windows and other improvements that affect the overall value of that home. Those townships will see the

Why it can happen. We have found many improvements, house additions, garages, etc that we did not have because a building permit was not obtained. When a value increases a certain percentage, it does not mean that your taxes will increase that much. There are many factors that are figured into your taxes, along with mill levies, factors and budgets that affect the final number.

This year, we are really trying to educate the taxpayers and the local boards as to what the assessor's office does and how we come up with adjustments that need to be made every year. I would like to start by saying that the Assessor's office is almost 2 years ahead of the treasurer. The tax bills that were just mailed this year are for the 2022 tax year. That means it is for any transfers, improvements, changes, etc that hap-

pened your taxes when you receive your tax statement, those are for changes from a year ago and those taxes are set. There is no way to change those taxes. Changes can only be made going forward, not into arrears. There is an appeal process to appeal your assessed value, but that is not appealing your taxes. The assessed value is part of what your taxes are figured on, but your assessed value could remain the same and your taxes could increase or decrease. The assessor's office handles the assessed value, the county auditor manages the taxes requested by all tax districts and calculates a tax levy and the county treasurer is responsible for collecting all property taxes. I will address the appeal process later in this article. First, I would like to give an overview of sales ratio and how we come up with the adjustments every year.

Assessed values are to be based off of market value. Market value is what it would sell for. Per the State of South Dakota, we need to be 85% to 100% of market value, with 85% being the minimum. The percentage is figured from the sales ratio numbers. We figure them per city and township and then do an overall countywide ratio. Sales ratio is figured by taking your assessed value and dividing it by what it sold for. For example, a house is valued at \$150,000 and then sold for \$225,000. The sales ratio for that house would be 67%. Over the last several years, many homes that have sold across the county have been consistently between 50% and 75%, with some even dipping into the 30's. There are also those that are right on at the 85% and others that are close or over 100%. If you get a few homes below, it doesn't make that much difference. But with the market the way it is, we are struggling to keep up. Our countywide ratio going into the 2023 tax year was 72.6%. It is our job to get us to the minimum requirement of 85%. This is achieved by giving statistical increases. A sales ratio report is generated for each city and township and adjustments are made until a new sales ratio percentage is created meeting or exceeding the minimum requirement. With the changes made for the 2023 tax year, the projected sales ratio number is 86.97%. It still needs to be audited and verified by the Department of Revenue.

I would like to take this one step further in understanding the sales ratio and how it affects your taxes. Each home is factored down to a "taxable value". The taxable val-

## BERESFORD MUNICIPAL TELEPHONE COMPANY RATES AND LIFELINE PROGRAM

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company provides basic and enhanced telecommunications services within its service area. Basic telephone services are offered at the following rates:

Single Line Residential Service	\$28.00
Single Line Business Service	\$31.50
Multi Line Business Service	\$35.08

Broadband Service is available, please contact Beresford Telephone for additional information.

### Local resident and business telephone service includes:

- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
- Single-party flat-rated local service free of per minute charges
- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch-tone) service
- Access to directory assistance services
- Access to other operator services
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Access to interexchange (long distance) services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline Assistance Program is available for qualifying low-income subscribers. This program provides a monthly service discount on telephone or broadband service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in at least one of the following programs or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

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

Beresford Telephone Company's voice and broadband service is a Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must provide 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 telephone or broadband 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 & share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements 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 BeresfordTel's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunication services, please call BeresfordTel's office at 605/763-2500.**





Website

# Lifeline Information

BMTC provides a federal assistance program for low-income citizens. The Lifeline program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone or broadband customers who qualify. To be eligible, subscribers must have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs listed below. In addition to income qualifications or program participation, broadband customers must subscribe to speeds at or above 20mbps/3mbps.

Medicaid

Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)

Food Stamps

Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$5.25/month on their basic telephone service or \$9.25/month on their broadband charges with speeds at or above 20mbps/3mbps. The credit applies on the main home telephone line or broadband service listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers also may receive blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line at no charge.

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. You must also provide proof of program participation or income eligibility. Acceptable forms of documentation include:

Prior year tax return

Paycheck stubs (must be 3 consecutive months within current calendar year)

Social Security Statement of Benefits

Veterans Administration Statement of Benefits

Retirement/Pension Statement of Benefits

Unemployment/Workman's Compensation Statement of Benefits

Divorce Decree, child support, or other official document

***If you feel you qualify for this program or would like more information,***

***Please call us at 605-763-2500 or stop into our Main Office***

Website  
2022



# Telephone Service



There are many pros and cons to have a landline home phone or not. Chat with us today, let us help you make an educated decision if a home phone is right for you and your family.

Beresford Telephone offers full service local and long distance telephone for both business and residential customers. Let us find what fits the needs of your home or business today!

[Home Phone Service](#)

[Business Phone Service](#)

## Telephone Service Rates

Basic Residential Telephone Service	\$28.30
Basic Business Single Line Telephone Service	\$31.50
Basic Business Multi Line Telephone Service	\$35.08

All Above prices are subject to change each quarter due to FUSC fluctuation

\$100.00 Deposit required for new customers  
(Deposit is returned to customer after 12 consecutive, timely payments)

## Long Distance Rates

In-State Connection Only	\$0.16/minute
Out-of-State Connection Only	\$0.14/minute
Real Deal Plan (Both In-State and Out-of- State )	\$0.14/minute

Only Pay for What You Use!!!  
800 Numbers are available upon request  
Above pricing does not include directory assistance or 0+ calls

## Optional Features/Add Ons

Caller ID	\$3.00
Call Waiting	\$0.75
Call Forward	\$1.00
Voicemail - Basic	\$2.50
Telemarketer Call Screening	\$2.50
Additional Directory Listing	\$0.75

Website

[Financial Assistance for Low-Income Customers](#)

Financial Assistance for Low-Income Customers

[Information regarding the Real Deal plan](#)

Information regarding the Real Deal plan

[HPBX Business VOIP 911 and E911 Notice](#)

HPBX Business VOIP 911 and E911 Notice

## Top Customer Support Questions

We take pride in our customer service! We have compiled a list of top questions and support topics to help our customers!

[Top Customer Support Questions](#)

## Pay Your Bill Online

Link to the City of Beresford Website for Online Bill Pay of BeresfordTel or City Utilities

[Pay Your Bill Online](#)

## Contact

120 East Main Street, Beresford SD 57004  
Tel: 605-763-2500  
Fax: 605-763-7112  
After Hours: 605-763-TERR (8725)

Email: [customerservice@beresfordtel.com](mailto:customerservice@beresfordtel.com)

**Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Rates  
and  
Lifeline Program**

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Single Line Residential Service                      \$28.00

Single Line Business Service                      \$31.50

Multi Line Business Service                      \$35.08

Broadband Service is available, please contact Beresford Telephone for additional information.

Local resident and business telephone service includes:

- Voice grade access to the public telephone network
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- Dual tone multi-frequency signaling (touch-tone) service
- Access to directory assistance services
- Access to other operator services
- Access to 911 emergency services
- Access to interexchange (long distance) services
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers

Lifeline Assistance Program is available for qualifying low-income subscribers. This program provides a monthly service discount on telephone or broadband service. Toll blocking at no charge and reduced deposits are also available. To qualify, a subscriber must participate in at least one of the following programs or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines:

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

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The basic services described above are offered to all consumers in BeresfordTel's service area. If you have any questions regarding telecommunication services, please call BeresfordTel's office at 605/763-2500.

*notice put in Beresford Republic Newspaper*



## Lifeline and Toll Limitation Services



**Lifeline and Toll Limitation Service** support provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. **Note:** Telecommunications carriers cannot charge a Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the local service portion of their telephone bill.

### What type of discount is available?

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone or internet service. Eligible telephone consumers receive a \$5.25 credit per month, and eligible broadband consumers receive a \$9.25 credit per month.

Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline support, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service.

Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130.

**Toll Limitation Service (TLS)** support 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 and TLS support varies by state. Individuals who reside in states that have their own discount programs qualify for federal Lifeline and TLS support if they meet the eligibility criteria established by their state. In states that do not provide state support, an individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Benefit Program
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)

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

To apply for Lifeline and TLS discounts, please contact Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 101 N. 3rd, Beresford, SD 57004 or (605)763-2500.

2023 Directory





## ***Notice to Beresford Municipal Telephone Company Customers***

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide 2 federal assistance programs to our telephone and/or broadband customers. The ***Lifeline*** program provides a monthly benefit on home telephone or broadband service to eligible households. The ***Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)*** helps connect families and households struggling to afford Internet service. The ***Affordable Connectivity Program*** is expected to be temporary and could end when the funds are exhausted. For more information on ***ACP***, go to [fcc.gov/ACP](http://fcc.gov/ACP) for a Consumer FAQ & other program resources. For more info on the ***Lifeline*** program, go to [lifelinesupport.org](http://lifelinesupport.org).

### **Who is Eligible?**

Subscribers must have household income that is at or below 135% (for Lifeline) and at or below 200% (for ACP) of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or the subscriber, one or more of their dependents, or their household must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

**Medicaid**

**Food Stamps**

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

**Free School Lunch Program \* (ACP only)**

**\*The Beresford Schools free lunch program is currently operating through COVID-19 waivers & is excluded from this qualification at this time.**

**Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)**

**Veteran's or Veterans Survivor's Pension**

**WIC (ACP only)**

**Received a Federal Pell Grant during this year (ACP only)**

### **What does the Program Provide?**

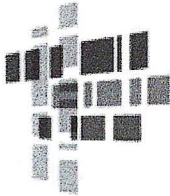
***Lifeline*** provides eligible subscribers with a monthly credit of \$5.25 on their basic telephone service or \$9.25 on their broadband charges with speeds at or **above** 25mbps/3mbps. The credit applies on the main home telephone line or broadband service listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers also may receive blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line at no charge. ***ACP*** provides eligible subscribers with a credit of up to \$30/month on their Internet service. Qualified customers may receive both the Lifeline and the ACP benefits.

### **Could I Become Ineligible?**

When you no longer are eligible to participate in any of the above assistance programs or your income becomes higher than the poverty guidelines, you are no longer eligible for ***Lifeline*** or ***ACP***. *You are obligated by law to notify Beresford Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline or ACP.*

### **How do I apply?**

To apply for ***Lifeline***, go to [Checklifeline.org](http://Checklifeline.org) and fill out the online application. To apply for ***ACP***, go to [ACPBenefit.org](http://ACPBenefit.org) to submit the online application. You may be asked to provide eligibility documentation on both sites. You may also apply by a mail-in application or online with assistance from the BeresfordTel office. You may come to our office at 120 E. Main Street, Beresford, Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm for assistance with your online application, or call us at 605/763-2500 for more information.



**Universal Service  
Administrative Co.**

## Companies Near Me

This tool can help you find companies in your area that offer Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) service. These programs can reduce the cost of phone or internet service by providing a monthly discount.

ACP service providers may have their own application process, so consumers should contact their preferred service provider for more information. Consumers may also be eligible for a one-time discount on a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet through ACP. Ask your service provider if they offer devices or use this tool to see a list of providers who offer discounted devices.

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### Find a Company

**Enter Your Zip Code**

OR

Example: 12345

**Enter Your City and State**

**Select A Program:**


ACP

Lifeline

*2023  
website*



Showing 4 of 4 companies

Download List: 

Company Name	Phone	Type of Service
Beresford Municipal Telephone*	605-763-2500	Home Service
Clarity Telecom	1-888-975-4258	Home Service
CenturyLink	1 800 244-1111	Home Service
Midcontinent Communications*	1-800-888-1300	Home Service

If you want to see more companies, see the list of companies in SD.

#### More About the Data

- Search results are based on program enrollment and information provided by the companies.
- Information on the availability of devices and plans free with the ACP benefit are self-reported by providers and subject to change.
- The search results may include a company listed in your area that may not provide service to your address.
- Also, the search results might not show every company that is near you. A company may still offer Lifeline and/or ACP service even if it is not on the list. Please contact the company to confirm if they offer Lifeline or the ACP service for your address.

#### Tell Us What You Think

We will continue to update this tool, so please check back often. If you have any comments or see something wrong - or if you are a company that needs to add or update your Lifeline or ACP information, email us at [LifelineProgram@usac.org](mailto:LifelineProgram@usac.org) or [ACProgram@usac.org](mailto:ACProgram@usac.org).

[Website Feedback](#) | [Privacy Policies](#)



**Beresford Municipal Telephone  
120 E. Main Street  
Beresford, SD 57004  
763-2500**

**\*\* Low Income Assistance Available for Eligible Telephone & Internet Customers \*\***

**Low Income Assistance Available:**

Beresford Municipal Telephone Company is authorized to provide two federal assistance programs to our Telephone and/or Broadband customers. The Lifeline Program provides a monthly benefit on home phone or broadband service to eligible households. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. For more information on ACP go to [fcc.gov/ach](http://fcc.gov/ach). More information on Lifeline go to [lifelinesupport.org](http://lifelinesupport.org). The Lifeline benefit can lower the cost of your monthly phone or internet bill. Only one benefit is available per household, either phone service or Internet, but not both.

**Who is Eligible?**

To be eligible, subscribers must have household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines **or** must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs:

**Medicaid**

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)**

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**

**Free School Lunch Program (ACP only)**

**Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit**

**WIC (ACP only)**

**Received Federal PELL Grant this year (ACP only)**

**What does the Program Provide?**

**Lifeline** provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$5.25 on their basic telephone charges or \$9.25 on their Internet charges (Internet must be at least 25mg). Lifeline subscribers also may receive blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line at no charge.

**ACP** provides credit up to \$30.00 per month on their internet service.

**How do I apply?**

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you must completely fill out and sign an application form. You must also provide proof of program participation or income eligibility. More details on this documentation requirement and application forms are available at our office at: Beresford Municipal Telephone Company, 120 E. Main St., Beresford, SD 57004, and at Beresford City Hall, 101 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Beresford, SD 57004.

**Could I Become Ineligible?**

When you no longer are eligible to participate in any of the above assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline. *You are obligated by law to notify Beresford Municipal Telephone Company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for Lifeline.*

***If you feel you qualify for this program or would like more information,  
please call us at 763-2500 or stop in our office at 120 E. Main Street.***

March 1, 2023

*City Hall Bulletin Board*