

## **What is Lifeline?**

Lifeline helps you stay connected and save money on your monthly telephone bill. The Lifeline discount can be applied to either home telephone service (landline or cable) or wireless service. The discount is available for only one line per household.

## **What are the benefits?**

- Lifeline discounts\* on home telephone service can save consumers as much as \$250 a year through lower basic local service charges and a waiver of the federal subscriber line charge.
- Wireless customers can receive Lifeline benefits such as free minutes, reduced rates and free phones.

\*Total savings and benefits will vary depending on your telephone service provider.

## **Key Provisions of the Program**

- Not all telephone and cable companies offer Lifeline. [Click here](#) for a list of participating companies or contact your provider directly.
- Customers must be income-eligible to apply.
- The Lifeline discount can be applied to either home telephone service or wireless service, but the discount is limited to one discount per household.
- Consumers will be required to provide documentation to prove he or she is eligible to receive Lifeline.

## **What is Tribal Lands Lifeline and Link-Up?**

Tribal Lands programs provide additional benefits for eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands. As part of the Tribal Lands Lifeline program, consumers receive additional discounts on their monthly bills. Under the Link Up program, some carriers offer 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 enables subscribers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free.

## **Any Restrictions?**

Only **ONE** Lifeline discount is allowed per household. The discount can be applied to a landline or a wireless service, but not at the same time.

Your "household" is everyone who lives together at your address as one economic unit, (including people who are not related to you). Adults living with you are part of the economic unit if they contribute to and share in the income and expenses of the household.

## Qualifying for Lifeline

### Do I qualify for the Lifeline program?

**YES!**

If you participate in any of the following assistance programs:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Non-Service Related Veteran's Disability Pension or Veteran's Surviving Spouse Pension

**YES!**

If you meet the qualifying income guidelines below:

#### 2013 Lifeline Income Eligibility Chart

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Biweekly
1	\$15,512	\$1,293	
2	\$20,939	\$1,745	
3	\$26,366	\$2,197	
4	\$31,793	\$2,649	
5	\$37,220	\$3,102	
6	\$42,647	\$3,554	
7	\$48,074	\$4,006	
8	\$53,501	\$4,458	
For each additional person, add	\$5,427	\$452	

Source: [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)

- **Assistance  
Safety Net  
Assistance**
- **Federal  
Public  
Housing  
Assistance  
(Section 8)**
- **National  
School  
Lunch  
Program**

## **Do I qualify for Tribal Lands Lifeline and Link Up?**

**YES!**

**If you are a resident of Native American Tribal Lands and qualify using the criteria above, or if you participate in one of the following programs:**

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

**[If you meet all of the above qualifications click here to apply for the Lifeline program.](#)**

**If you have questions about these requirements [click here to contact us.](#)**

**Applying for the Lifeline program is easy.**

## **Step 1**

**Contact your telephone service provider to see if they offer Lifeline. [Click here for a list of all New York State telephone service providers.](#)**

## **Step 2**

**Once you have verified that your telephone service offers Lifeline you may contact them and request to be included in the Lifeline program. Some service providers will have an on-line application process while others will mail you an enrollment package.**

## **Step 3**

**Send your completed Lifeline application to your telephone service provider.**

### **Please note:**

There have been recent changes to the federal Lifeline program, including information required on the service application. Your telephone carrier may require proof of eligibility and will periodically confirm that your discount service eligibility is still in effect. If you are no longer eligible, you will be notified that your discount will be discontinued.