

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (Cont'd)

J. LIFELINE PROGRAM

1. Lifeline is an assistance program which provides, for qualifying low income customers, a monthly credit toward one residential network access line per household at the customer's principal place of residence.

2. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following assistance programs:

Medicaid  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a Food Stamps)  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
Federal Public Housing Assistance  
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)  
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program  
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

In addition, if the applicant's household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, the applicant may qualify for assistance under the Lifeline Program.

The applicant must at the time of application, certify under penalty of perjury receipt of benefits from at least one of the above assistance programs and, identify the program(s) from which the customer receives assistance or so certify household income level. In addition, the applicant must agree to notify the Company when the customer ceases to receive such assistance or if household income level ceases to meet required levels.

3. Eligible Customers are those that meet the following criteria:

- A. Must be receiving aid from at least one of the assistance programs or meet the household income requirement listed in 2 above.
- B. Must be the billed party for the residential network access line to which the credit is to be applied.
- C. Must not be a member of a household receiving lifeline benefits from any service provider.

4. The credit to the network access line provided by this program is applicable only to the monthly rate of one residential network access line per household at the customer's principal place of residence. The credit will equal \$2.75 or the tariffed rate for the network access line to which the credit will apply, whichever is less. (1)

5. Eligible customers receiving the Lifeline credit will not be charged the End User Common Line Charge (EUCL) as per FairPoint Tariff FCC No. 2.

6. The service of an eligible customer receiving the Lifeline credit may not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges unless a waiver of this provision is granted by the Commission.

7. An eligible customer who elects toll blocking shall not be required to provide a service deposit in order to initiate the Lifeline credit.

8. Effective April 1, 2012, Lifeline customers will no longer receive federal assistance known as Link-Up toward installation of their network access line.

*Patrick C. McHugh*  
*(by JAW)*