

TARIFF DISTRIBUTION

FILE PACKAGE NO.: IT-16-0003

DATE: December 2, 2016

STATE: INDTAR20

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/02/2016

TYPE OF DISTRIBUTION: Approved

PURPOSE: This filing modifies the language for the Low-Income Program (Lifeline).

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1. LOW-INCOME PROGRAM

The Low-Income Program consists of the federal Lifeline program. The Company participates in this assistance program to increase the availability of telecommunications services to all consumers in its serving areas.

A. Definitions

The following terms shall be defined as follows:

Toll Blocking Service - a service provided by the Company that lets consumers elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from their residential exchange access line.

(D)

B. Lifeline Assistance

1. General

Lifeline Assistance is available to residential customers in accordance with the provisions established by the FCC and set forth in 47 C.F.R. 54.

(T)

2. Description

The Federal Lifeline Program assists qualified low-income applicants by providing a \$9.25 reduction in their monthly rate for qualifying services as defined in 47 C.F.R. 54.400(m) and C.F.R. 54.400(l) at eligible locations.

(N)

3. Eligible Criteria

To constitute as a qualifying low-income consumer:

- a) A consumer's household income as defined in §54.400(f) must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size; or
- b) The consumer, one or more of the consumer's dependents, or the consumer's household must receive benefits from one of the following federal assistance programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance; or Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit.

(N)

1. LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (cont'd)

B. Lifeline Assistance (cont'd)

- (D)
- (D)
4. Eligibility Determination and Certification Criteria (N)
- a) An applicant may request Lifeline assistance through completion and submission of a form provided by the Company or by an agent of the state or Federal Communications Commission.
 - b) Applicants must provide proof of eligibility and be deemed eligible for participation consistent with the federal requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. 54.410. (N)
 - c) Applicants qualifying by income may produce any of the following documents for certification: (T)
 - Prior year's state or federal tax return
 - Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stubs
 - Social Security statement of benefits
 - Veterans Administration statement of benefits
 - Retirement/pension statement of benefits
 - Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
 - Divorce decree
 - Federal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
 - Child support document

If anything other than tax returns is used to demonstrate eligibility, three consecutive months of the same document from within the same calendar year is required.
 - d) The Company will periodically recertify all Lifeline subscribers consistent with the federal requirements in 47 C.F.R. 54.410(f). (N)
5. Credits (N)
- a) Customers eligible for Lifeline Assistance shall receive a \$9.25 credit applied to their monthly bill in accordance with the federal Lifeline provisions set forth in 47 C.F.R. 54. (N)
 - b) Customers eligible for Lifeline Assistance are eligible to receive Toll Blocking Service at no charge. This service will only be provided at the customer's request. (T)

1. LOW-INCOME PROGRAM (cont'd)

(D)

(D)

C. Link-Up Assistance (Lifeline Connection Assistance)^{/1/}

/1/ The requirement for ETCs to offer Link-Up assistance (discounted service connection charges) was eliminated by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the Lifeline Reform and Modernization Order, Released February 6, 2012.