

TARIFF DISTRIBUTION

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A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

A3.31 Lifeline

A3.31.1 Description of Service

- A. The Lifeline program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunications services to low income subscribers by providing a credit to monthly recurring local service to qualifying residential subscribers. Basic terms and conditions are in compliance with *FCC rules and regulations including* the FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket No. 11-42, adopted January 31, 2012, *and the Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Third Report And Order, Further Report And Order, and Order on Reconsideration, WC Docket No. 11-42 (rel. April 27, 2016) ("Lifeline Reform and Modernization Order")*. Specific terms and conditions are as set forth in this guidebook. (C)
- B. Lifeline is supported by the federal universal service support mechanism.
- C. Federal uniform support of \$9.25 is available for each Lifeline service and is passed through to an eligible customer via a monthly Federal Lifeline credit. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service. (T)

A3.31.2 Terms and Conditions

- A. General
 - 1. One low income credit is available per household and is applicable to the primary residential connection only. Lifeline support is limited to a single subscription per household where household is defined to be any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. For the purposes of this provision, an economic unit consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household.
 - 2. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to the capped message rate Lifeline plan (USOC LM8) or any local service offering available to other residence customers.
 - 3. Toll blocking, if elected, will be provided at no charge to the Lifeline subscriber.
 - 4. The deposit requirement is not applicable to a Lifeline customer who subscribes to toll blocking. If a Lifeline customer removes toll blocking prior to establishing an acceptable credit history, a deposit may be required. When applicable, advance payments will not exceed the connection and local service charges for one month.
 - 5. A Lifeline customer is exempt from the Late Payment Charge in Section A2 of the General Exchange Guidebook.
 - 6. The Federal Universal Service Charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers.
 - 7. A Lifeline subscriber's local service will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Local service may be denied for non-payment of local service in accordance with A2. Access to toll service may be denied for non-payment of toll charges. A Lifeline subscriber's request for reconnection of local service will not be denied if the service was previously denied for non-payment of toll charges.
 - 8. Lifeline is not available for resale.
- B. Eligibility
 - 1. To be eligible for Lifeline, a customer must be a current recipient of any one of the following low income assistance programs.¹ (T)
 - a. **(DELETED)** (D)
 - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - c. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - d. Medicaid (C)
 - e. **(DELETED)** (D)
 - f. Federal Public Housing Assistance (C)
 - g. **(DELETED)** (D)
 - h. Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit (N)
 - 2. Additionally, a customer with total gross annual income that does not exceed one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the Federal Poverty Guidelines is eligible for Lifeline.
 - 3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program. (N)
 - Note 1: Effective December 2, 2016, in compliance with the FCC "Lifeline Reform and Modernization Order", Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and National School Lunch Program's free lunch program are no longer criteria for the federal Lifeline program. Existing Lifeline subscribers qualified under these programs prior to December 2, 2016, and who remain qualified for these programs, may retain the Lifeline discount until such time as they must re-certify under current FCC rules and criteria.

A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

A3.31 Lifeline (Cont'd)

A3.31.2 Terms and Conditions (Cont'd)

C. Certification

1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service. The Lifeline credit will not be established until the Company has received proof of eligibility. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of proof of eligibility, the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis. Re-certification is required *periodically consistent with the federal requirements in 47 C.F.R. 54.* (C)
2. The Company reserves the right to periodically audit its records, working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies, for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility. Information obtained during such audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
3. When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of an audit, the Company will contact the customer. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued.

A3.31.3 Rates and Charges

A. General

1. Lifeline is provided as a monthly credit on the eligible residential subscriber's access line bill for local service.
2. Service Charges in A4 are applicable for installing or changing Lifeline service.
3. The Secondary Service Charge in A4 is not applicable when existing service is converted intact to Lifeline.

B. The Lifeline credit consists of one federal credit.¹ (T)

	Monthly Credit	
(1) Federal credit		
(a) (DELETED)		(D)
(b) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$9.25	
(c) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	9.25	
(d) Medicaid	9.25	(C)
(e) Income based at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines	9.25	
(f) (DELETED)	9.25	(D)
(g) Federal Public Housing Assistance	9.25	(C)
(h) (DELETED)		(D)
(i) Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit	9.25	(N)

A3.32 In-Classroom Computer Access Service (Obsoleted, See A103)

A3.33 Reserved For Future Use

A3.34 Reserved For Future Use

A3.35 Reserved For Future Use

A3.36 Reserved For Future Use

A3.37 Reserved For Future Use

A3.38 Back-Up Line (Obsoleted, See Section A103)

A3.39 Reserved For Future Use

A3.40 Reserved For Future Use

A3.41 Reserved For Future Use

A3.42 Reserved For Future Use

A3.43 BellSouth Business Plus Service (Obsoleted, See Section A103)

Note 1: Effective December 2, 2016, in compliance with the FCC "Lifeline Reform and Modernization Order", Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and National School Lunch Program's free lunch program are no longer criteria for the federal Lifeline program. Existing Lifeline subscribers qualified under these programs prior to December 2, 2016, and who remain qualified for these programs, may retain the Lifeline discount until such time as they must re-certify under current FCC rules and criteria. (N)