

Lifeline Program Application Form



1. About Lifeline

Lifeline is a federal benefit that lowers the monthly cost of phone or internet service.

Rules

If you qualify, your household can get Lifeline for phone or internet service, but not both.

- If you get Lifeline for phone service, you can get the benefit for one mobile phone or one home phone, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone or your home connection, but not both.
- If you get Lifeline for bundled phone and internet service, you can get the benefit for your mobile phone bundled service or your home bundled service, but not both.

Your household cannot get Lifeline from more than one phone or internet company.

You are only allowed to get one Lifeline benefit per household, **not per person**. If more than one person in your household gets Lifeline, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

What is a household?

A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses (even if they are not related to each other).

Do not give your benefit to another person

Lifeline is non-transferable. You cannot give your Lifeline benefit to another person, even if they qualify.

Be honest on this form

You must give accurate and true information on this form and on all Lifeline-related forms or questionnaires. If you give false or fraudulent information, you will lose your Lifeline benefit (i.e., de-enrollment or being barred from the program) and the United States government can take legal actions against you. This may include (but is not limited to) fines or imprisonment.

You may need to show other documents

You will need to show your phone or internet company an official document from one of the government qualifying programs or prove your annual income. Please provide copies of your official documents with this application. Include the documents in option 1 or option 2 below:

1. If you qualify through a government program: copies of your state ID card and an official document from the program you are qualifying through (your SNAP card, Medicaid card, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit letter, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) award letter, or other accepted documents).
2. If you qualify through your income: copies of your state ID card and your last state, federal, or Tribal tax return, pay stubs for 3 consecutive months, or other accepted documents. Visit lifelinesupport.org to see the full list of accepted documents.

Visit lifelinesupport.org to see the full list of accepted documents.

Apply

To apply for a Lifeline benefit, fill out every section of this form, initial every agreement statement, and sign the last page.

To apply, bring or mail this form to your phone or internet company.

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2. Your Information

All fields are required unless indicated. Use only CAPITALIZED LETTERS and black ink to fill out this form.

What is your full legal name?
The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security Card or State ID. Not a nickname.

First

Middle (optional)

Last

Suffix (optional)

What is your phone number (if you have one)? **What is your date of birth?**

Month Day Year

What is your email address (if you have one)?

What are the last 4 numbers of your Social Security Number (SSN)?

If you do not have a SSN, what is your Tribal Identification Number?

What is the best way to reach you?

email phone text message mail

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2. Your Information (continued)

Only fill this section out if you are applying through a child or dependent.

Check if you are qualifying through a child or dependent in your household.
If so, answer the following questions:

What is their full legal name?

First

Middle (optional)

Suffix (optional)

Last

What is their date of birth?

Month Day Year

What are the last 4 numbers of their Social Security Number (SSN)?

If they do not have a SSN, what is your Tribal Identification Number?

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3. Qualify for Lifeline

Fill out this section to show that you, your dependent, or someone in your household qualifies for Lifeline.

You can qualify through some government assistance programs or through your income (you do not need to qualify through both).

Qualify through a government program:

Check all programs that you or someone in your household have:

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

Tribal Specific Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) General Assistance
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Tribal Head Start (only households that meet the income qualifying standard)

Or

Qualify through your income:

(Only fill this out if you do not qualify through a government program.)

Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	Is your income the same or less than the amount listed for your state and household size? (only check yes or no next to your household size)				
	All 48 States & DC (not Alaska and Hawaii)	Alaska	Hawaii	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	\$16,389	\$20,493	\$18,846	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	\$22,221	\$27,783	\$25,555.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	\$28,053	\$35,073	\$32,265	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	\$33,885	\$42,363	\$38,974.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	\$39,717	\$49,653	\$45,684	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	\$45,549	\$56,943	\$52,393.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	\$51,381	\$64,233	\$59,103	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	\$57,213	\$71,523	\$65,812.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$5,832	Add \$7,290	Add \$6,709.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

135% of the 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines
*The Federal Poverty Guidelines are typically updated at the end of January.

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4. Agreement

I agree, under penalty of perjury, to the following statements:

You must initial next to each statement.

Initial I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get benefits from the government program(s) listed on this form or my annual household income is 135% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Federal Poverty Guidelines table on this form).

Initial I agree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address within 30 days.

Initial I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline anymore, including:

- 1) I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a government program or income anymore.
- 2) Either I or someone in my household gets more than one Lifeline benefit (including, more than one Lifeline broadband internet service, more than one Lifeline telephone service, or both Lifeline telephone and Lifeline broadband internet services).

Initial I know that my household can only get one Lifeline benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not getting more than one Lifeline benefit.

Initial I agree that my service provider can give the Lifeline Program administrator all of the information I am giving on this form. I understand that this information is meant to help run the Lifeline Program and that if I do not let them give it to the Administrator, I will not be able to get Lifeline benefits.

Initial All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Initial I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get Lifeline Program benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, jail time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program.

Initial My service provider may have to check whether I still qualify at any time. If I need to recertify (renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respond by the deadline or I will be removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline benefit will stop.

Initial I was truthful about whether or not I am a resident of Tribal lands, as defined in section 2 of this form.

I consent to let USAC contact me at my Lifeline phone number for important reminders and updates to my Lifeline service. Message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to end messages.

Signature	Today's Date
<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

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Notice

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: Section 54.410 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules requires all Lifeline subscribers to demonstrate their eligibility to receive Lifeline services. This collection of information stems from the Commission's authority under Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.). The data provided in response to this information collection will be used by USAC to verify the applicant's eligibility for Lifeline services.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, between 0.25 and 0.75 hours. Our estimate includes the time to read the questions, look through existing records, gather the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, please write to the Federal Communications Commission, OMD-PERM, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0819), Washington, D.C. 20554. We also will accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to PRA@fcc.gov. Please DO NOT SEND COMPLETED DATA COLLECTION FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Remember – You are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the Federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. This collection has been assigned an OMB control number of 3060-0819.

The Commission is authorized under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect the information we request on this form. If we believe there may be a violation or potential violation of a statute or a Commission regulation, rule, or order, your response may be referred to the Federal, state, or local agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order.

If you do not provide the information we request on this form, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.

The foregoing Notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, P.L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, et seq.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT: The Privacy Act is a law that requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to explain why we are asking individuals for personal information and what we are going to do with this information after we collect it.

Authority: Section 254 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 254), as amended, 47 U.S.C. §254, authorizes the FCC to operate the Lifeline program. Using this authority, the FCC has designated USAC as the permanent Lifeline Administrator. The FCC has published rules detailing how consumers can qualify for Lifeline services and what Lifeline services they may receive (47 CFR §54.400 et seq.).

Purpose: We are collecting this personal information so we can verify that you qualify for the Lifeline program and so we can efficiently provide Lifeline services to you. We access, maintain and use your personal information in the manner described in the Lifeline System of Records Notice (SORN), FCC/WCB-1, which we have published in 82 Fed. Reg. 38686 (Aug. 15, 2017).

Routine Uses: We may share the personal information you enter into this form with other parties for specific purposes, such as: with contractors that help us operate the Lifeline program; with other federal and state government agencies that help us determine your Lifeline eligibility; with the telecommunications companies that provide you Lifeline service; and with law enforcement and other officials investigating potential violations of Lifeline rules.

A complete listing of the ways we may use your information is published in the Lifeline SORN described in the "Purpose" paragraph of this statement.

Disclosure: You are not required to provide the information we are requesting, but if you do not, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.400-54.423.

NEW YORK STATE (NYS) DISCOUNT APPLICATION

What Lifeline Programs are available in New York?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Lifeline Program is a joint federal and State of New York program intended to assist in making telephone and qualified broadband service affordable for eligible residential customers. Customers that meet the FCC Lifeline Program eligibility requirements will receive the federally authorized credit of \$9.25 on their telephone or qualified broadband bill.

If you do not meet the FCC Lifeline Program's qualifications, you may still be eligible for the NYS Lifeline Program. This state program offers a service credit of \$9.25 to be deducted from basic telephone service only for qualified applicants.

In addition, depending upon your telephone company, the New York State Public Service Commission has approved additional credits on telephone service under the FCC or NYS Lifeline Programs (these credits vary by company). These additional Lifeline Program credits can be found in your Telephone Company's Tariff on addendum 1.

Who is eligible for Lifeline Discounts?

In order to be eligible for the FCC Lifeline Program, the applicant must receive benefits through one of the following programs:

**Medicaid (MA),
Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP),
Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
Federal Public Housing Assistance,
Veterans Disabilities Pension, or
Veterans Surviving Spouse Pension.**

Alternatively, an applicant must have a household income of less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).

For the NYS Lifeline Program, applicants must certify that they do not qualify for the FCC Lifeline Program, but do receive benefits from one of the following programs:

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program, or
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Safety Net.**

How do I apply for a Lifeline Program discount?

If you qualify for the FCC Lifeline Program, you must fill out the FCC Lifeline Program application. If you do not qualify for the FCC Lifeline Program, complete the NYS Lifeline Program application and return it with proof of eligibility as described in the application to your Telephone Company.

Do any additional restrictions apply?

Yes, additional restrictions do apply. The NYS Lifeline Program discount is available for one telephone line per household; Applicants must be over 18 years of age, and cannot be claimed as a dependent on anyone's tax return.

NEW YORK STATE (NYS) DISCOUNT APPLICATION

(Please Print using CAPITALIZED LETTERS)

Applicant's Name: _____

Qualifying Person's Name (if different from above): _____

Telephone Number (include area code) _____

Street Address (No PO Boxes): _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

The Above Address is ___ Permanent ___ Temporary ___ Multi-Household (See Attached Household worksheet)

Billing Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Applicant's Date of Birth: _____ Applicant's Last four of Social Security Number: XXX - XX- _____

Qualifying Person's Date of Birth: _____ Qualifying Persons' Social Security Number: XXX - XX- _____

I/member of my household am/is now receiving assistance from the following programs (check all that apply to you):

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Safety Net

You must provide documentation that you/member of your household receive benefits from the program you selected above. Provide a copy of the program documentation. Original documents will not be returned.

For Company use

Documentation received to qualify for New York State Lifeline, as a recipient of state benefit programs:

___ benefit statement – Type of statement/Agency _____

___ HEAP Approval Notice/utility bill with HEAP benefit;

NEW YORK STATE (NYS) DISCOUNT APPLICATION

Lifeline Applicant Certifications: *All Certifications statements are required. If you are unable to certify to these statements, you will become ineligible for the Lifeline discount. Initial each line and sign below.*

_____ I hereby certify that I am **NOT** eligible to participate in the FCC Lifeline Program.

_____ I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get benefits from the government program(s) listed on this form.

_____ I agree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address within 30 days.

_____ I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline anymore, including:

1. I, or the person in my household that qualifies, no longer qualifies under the NYS government programs listed above.
2. Either I or someone in my household gets more than one Lifeline Program benefit (including, the federal lifeline benefit).

_____ I know that my household can only get one Lifeline Program benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not getting more than one Lifeline Program benefit.

_____ All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

_____ I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get Lifeline Program benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, jail time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program.

_____ My service provider may have to check whether I still qualify at any time. If I need to recertify (renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respond by the deadline or I will be removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline Program benefit will stop.

By signing below, you certify to the above initialed statements

Qualifying person's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian of qualifying person (if minor): _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Applicant if different from above: _____ **Date:** _____

If Applicant is not the qualifying person, both applicant and qualifying person/Parent/Guardian MUST initial and sign all certifications.

Lifeline Application Checklist

Use this document as a guide before submitting your completed application packet to TDS.

This Checklist is a reference tool only. The information and requirements listed in the Lifeline Application (pages 1-8) supersede all information contained on this page.

- You reviewed all information in Number 1. About Lifeline (page 1 of 8)
- You completed all portions of Number 2. Your Information – leaving no blanks or missing information. Number 2. Your Information starts on page 2 of 8 and ends on page 4 of 8.
- In Number 3. Qualify for Lifeline, (on page 5 of 8) you selected the program you participate in OR you marked the number in your household and marked your income level.
- The application you are sending *includes a copy* of the proof of eligibility selected in Number 3. Qualify for Lifeline as well as a copy of your state ID card.
- In Number 4: Agreement, (on page 6 of 8) you wrote your initials for *each* statement, signed and dated the application.
- You reviewed all information contained in the Notice (page 8 of 8)
- If you do not qualify in a program or via income reflected on page 5 of 8, you are including a completed NYS Discount application and copies of proof documents.

If you are missing any of the above information, go back and complete the missing step.

If you checked all of the above, your application is likely ready for review. Send the completed forms, copies of proof of eligibility and state ID card to TDS:

By Mail

TDS
PO BOX 5488
Madison WI, 53705

By Fax

You may fax your entire application packet to 1.608.830.5634