# STAY CONNECTED

with the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program





**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission** 

1-800-692-7380 www.puc.pa.gov

# What is the Lifeline Program?

The Lifeline Program is a government benefit program that provides eligible low-income consumers with a discount on monthly service for voice (telephone), Broadband Internet Access Service (or BIAS, usually called internet service), or a combined telephone/internet service product from a landline or wireless provider. This helps ensure these consumers have the opportunities and security that telephone and Internet service provide, including being able to connect to jobs, family, health care, schools, and 911 emergency calling services.

# What are the benefits under the Lifeline Program?

The Lifeline Program provides a \$9.25 per household, per month discount on your telephone or internet service from your landline or wireless provider. The discount appears in the form of a reduction to the bill you pay your service provider.

### **Program Benefit Changes**

Date	Wireless Voice	Wireless Internet	Landline Internet
12/1/2018	1,000 Minutes	<b>Speed:</b> 3G or Better	<b>Speed:</b> 18/2 Mbps Download/1Mbps Upload
		Usage Allowance: 2 GB	Usage Allowance: 1,000 GB
12/1/2019	1,000 Minutes	<b>Speed:</b> 3G or Better	<b>Speed:</b> 20/3 Mbps, or at least 4/1 Mbps
		Usage Allowance: 8.75 GB	Usage Allowance: 1,024 GB

<sup>\*</sup>If your landline internet provider cannot provide the 10/1 Mbps or 15/2Mbps speeds, the minimum is 4/1 Mbps.

# **How Do I Get the Lifeline Program Benefit?**

You get the Lifeline Program benefit from a Lifeline Program provider.

# Other Lifeline Program Available Services from Verizon Communications, Inc.

**Universal Telephone Assistance Program** helps Verizon PA Lifeline customers pay bills, avoid shutoffs and restore service.

**Lifeline 100** is available to Verizon PA and Verizon North for customers at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or who receive SSI benefits.

# **How Do I Enroll?**

Contact your current telephone or Internet service provider. Ask if they are a Lifeline Program provider. If they are, they can help you. You can locate a Lifeline Program provider in your area of Pennsylvania by going to <a href="https://www.lifelinesupport.org">www.lifelinesupport.org</a>. You also can call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380.

# **How do I Qualify?**

The Lifeline Program is available to eligible low-income consumers in Pennsylvania who enroll. To enroll in the Lifeline Program, you must either have an income that is at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

### **2019 Income Guidelines**

Household Size	135% of Federal Poverty Levels
1	\$16,862
2	\$22,829
3	\$28,796
4	\$34,763
Each additional person after 4	\$5,967

# **Eligible Assistance Programs**

- Medicaid Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Veteran's Pension
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) Supplemental Nutrition
  Assistance Program (SNAP) Tribal Programs

# Do I Need to Verify and Recertify My Eligibility?

Yes. You must contact your Lifeline Program provider to verify you are eligible when you first apply and every year after that. Your Lifeline Program provider can help you.

You may no longer be eligible for the Lifeline Program benefit if your income goes above 135 percent of the federal poverty level. You also may no longer be eligible if you are no longer in an eligible assistance program or if someone else in your household receives a Lifeline Program benefit.

If you are recertifying your eligibility for Lifeline assistance, your company will notify you in advance. You may re-qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on income (at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines) or if you participate in any of the eligible programs. If you do not recertify by the date on your notice, you must re-apply for Lifeline assistance.

Your Lifeline provider may remove you from the program if you do not use your Lifeline service for 30-days. You must contact your Lifeline provider to de-enroll, if you are no longer eligible for the program. Otherwise, you may be subject to penalties. You should first call your Lifeline Service provider if you have any questions. Then you can call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380.

# **Can I Get More Than One Discounted Service?**

**No.** Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than **ONE** Lifeline Program discount per household per month. Effective **Dec. 1, 2016**, Lifeline Program consumers have the choice (where applicable) of applying their Lifeline Program benefit to one of three types of telephone or internet service offerings:

- Landline or wireless internet service only;
- Landline or wireless telephone only (voice-only will be phased out by the end of 2021 with the exception of certain areas); or
- A combination of landline or wireless telephone and internet service.

# **How Often Can I Change my Lifeline Company?**

If you use Lifeline for voice service, you must stay with your company for at least 60 days before you can switch Lifeline to a new company. If you use Lifeline for internet or mobile data, you may have to stay with your company for at least 12 months before you can switch Lifeline to a new company.

# What if I Have a Problem with My Lifeline Service?

If you have a problem with your Lifeline service, you should first call your Lifeline provider. If you are not satisfied with your provider's response, you may call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380, for more information or to file an informal complaint.

The services offered for Lifeline can vary by company. Here is a list of wireless and landline shopping questions.

#### **For Wireless:**

- How many minutes of talk are included?
- Does the plan include internet?
- Is a new phone included? If not can I continue to use my current phone?
- If internet is included, does the company provide a Smart Phone? If the company does not include a Smart Phone, what will a Smart phone cost?
- How do I get additional minutes or data?

#### For Landline:

- Can I use my Lifeline credit toward internet service?
- Can I use my Lifeline credit toward a bundle that include both voice and internet?
- Does the company offer any other discounted services, or products for Lifeline customers?

# **Wireline Companies**

#### Armstrong Telephone Co. NORTH

693 Main Street P.O. Box 342 Duke Center, PA 16729 814-966-3207

### **Armstrong Telephone**

1755 State Route 30 Clinton, PA 15026-0418 724-899-2211

#### **CenturyLink Data Service**

P.O. Box 7086 London, KY 40742 800-829-8009

#### Citizens Telephone Co. of Kecksburg

P.O. Box 156 Mammoth, PA 15664 724-423-4444

#### **Consolidated Communications**

4008 Gibsonia Road Gibsonia, PA 15044-0395 724-443-9521

# **Fairpoint Communications**

(Bentleyville Telephone Co) Marianna & Scenery Hill Telephone Co) Offline Services Group 30 East Main Street Westfield, NY 14787 877-524-8293

#### **Frontier Communications**

P.O. Box 5156 Tampa, FL 33675 800-921-8101 800-225-5282

### Full Service Network, LP

Attn: Lifeline Dept 600 Grant St, Ste 3075 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 888-347-6000

#### Hancock Telephone Co.

P.O. Box 608 34 Read Street Hancock, NY 13783 607-637-9911 **Hickory Telephone Co.** 75 Main Street Hickory, PA 15340-1118 724-356-2211

#### Ironton Telephone Co.

4242 Mauch Chunk Road Coplay, PA 18037 610-799-3131

#### Lackawaxen Telephone Co.

104 Hotel Road P.O. Box 8 Rowland, PA 18457 570-685-7111

#### Laurel Highland Telephone Co.

P.O. Box 168 Stahlstown, PA 15687 724-455-2411

#### Northeastern PA Telephone Co.

720 Main Street P.O. Box D Forest City, PA 18421-0150 570-785-3131

### North Penn Telephone Co.

4145 State Route 549 Mansfield, PA 16933 570-549-3705

#### Palmerton Telephone Co.

P.O. Box 215 Palmerton, PA 18071 610-826-2115

### Pennsylvania Telephone Co.

191 Middle Road Jersey Shore, PA 17740 570-745-7101 (only serves 570 area code/745 prefix)

### **Pymatuning Independent**

Telephone Co. 5 Edgewood Drive Greenville, PA 16125 724-646-5400

#### **RCN**

100 Baltimore Avenue Wilkes Barre, PA 18702 800-746-4726

#### Service Electric Telephone

4242 Mauch Chunk Road Coplay, PA 18037 610-841-4100

#### South Canaan Telephone Co.

P.O. Box 160 South Canaan, PA 18459 570-937-4114

#### TDS Telecom - Lifeline

P.O. Box 608 Lancaster, WI 53813 888-225-5837 877-271-2861 (fax)

### **Venus Telephone Corporation**

1698 County Line Road Box 75Venus, PA 16364 814-354-2192

#### Verizon Lifeline Service - PA

P.O. Box 33075 St. Petersburg, FL 33733-8075 800-837-4966

#### **West Side Telecommunications**

1449 Fairmont Road Morgantown, WV 26501 800-296-9113

#### **Windstream Communications**

ATTN: Support Services – Lifeline 1720 Galleria Boulevard Charlotte, NC 28270 800-347-1991

#### Yukon Waltz Telephone Co.

P.O. Box 398 Yukon, PA 15698-0398 724-722-3131

# **Wireless Companies**

# Airvoice Wireless d/b/a FeelSafe Wireless

2425 Franklin Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 1-877-247-7799

#### Amerimex

d/b/a SafetyNet Wireless 1007 Mansell Rd Suite A Roswell, GA 30076 1-877-312-1691

# American Broadband d/b/a AB&T Wireless AB&T

PO Box 577 Toledo, OH 43604 866-966-2628

# Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless

955 Kacena Rd, Suite A Hiawatha, IA 866-488-8719

#### **Blue Jay Wireless**

4240 International Pkwy Suite 140 Carrollton, TX 75007 855-425-8529

# Buffalo-Lake Erie d/b/a Blue Wireless

email: info@bluelimited.com www.blueunlimited.com 814-340-9500 570-909-1500 570-855-1500

### Global Connections d/b/a Standup Wireless

5555 Oakbrook Norcross, GA 30093 1-866-862-3253

#### iWireless, LLC d/b/a Access Wireless

1 Levee Way Ste 3104 Newport KY 41071 1-888-900-5899

#### **Limitless Mobile**

2574 Interstate Drive Harrisburg, PA 17110 (888) 249-8030

### **Qlink Wireless**

499 E. Sheridan St., Ste. 300 Dania, FL 33004 855-754-6543

# Sage Telecom Communications d/b/a TruConnect

10440 N. Central Expressway Suite 700 Dallas, TX 75231 1-888-449-4940

### Tag Mobile Customer Service 1330

Capital Parkway Carrollton, TX 75006 866-959-4918

# Telrite Corporation d/b/a Life Wireless

Customer Service Department PO Box 2840 Covington, GA 30015 888-543-3620 888-543-3640

#### T-Mobile

T-Mobile Customer Relations PO Box 37380 Albuquerque, NM 87176-7380 800-937-8997 800-866-2453

# Tracfone d/b/a Safelink

Attn: Executive Resolution Department 9700 N.W. 112th Avenue Miami, FL 33178 1-800-723-3546

#### Virgin Mobile d/b/a Assurance Wireless

PO Box 686 Parsippany, NJ 07054 1-888-898-4888

# Yourtel America, Inc. d/b/a "Yourtel"

401 E. Memorial Rd., Suite 500 Oklahoma City, OK 73114 1-877-388-1082