

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Telephone service must be in the applicants name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible (documentation required):

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance
- Medicaid (Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program

OTHER WAYS TO QUALIFY

A recent FCC ruling has added an additional eligibility criterion that is purely "income-based," and is not tied to subscriber participation in the previously mentioned government assistance programs. You are now eligible to participate in Lifeline and Link-Up if the your income is at ,or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (2009 Guidelines extended into 2010.)

Size of Family Unit	2009 Req.
1	\$14,621
2	\$19,670
3	\$24,719
4	\$29,768
5	\$34,817
6	\$39,866
7	\$44,915
8	\$49,964

For Each Additional Person, Add

\$ 5,049

THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TV

After June 12, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive full power over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting.

Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players and similar products.

The DTV transition will have no effect on Valley Video TV subscribers. Analog sets not connected to a cable/video tv service may need additional equipment (i.e. converter box) or may have to be replaced.

Information about the DTV transition is available from www.DTV.gov and from www.dtv2009.gov or 1-888-DTV-2009.

Updated 06/09/2010

LIFELINE AND LINK-UP TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Valley Telecommunications Coop Assn Inc.

PO Box 7 ~ 102 Main St S

Herreid SD 57632-0007

www.valleytel.net

Phone: 437-2615

Toll Free: 1-800-437-2615

Fax: 437-2220

WHAT IS LIFELINE?

THE PROGRAM

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in the introduction of low-income assistance programs in South Dakota. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service.

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn, Inc. is authorized to provide two federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens.

- The **Lifeline** program provides a reduction in basic monthly telephone service equal to the residential subscriber line charge, plus an additional amount of \$1.75. The credit applies to the main home telephone line listed in the name of the subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.
- The **Link-Up** program provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of the applicable charges, or \$30.00, whichever is less. Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time, per home address, per subscriber.

INCOME CERTIFICATION

If you qualify under the income-based eligibility criteria, and wish to apply for Lifeline or Link-Up Assistance, you must provide our office with supporting documentation of income.* Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, a current income statements from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, and Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, federal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. (*Subsection 54.410(a)*)

**Income for eligibility requirements is defined to include "all income actually received by all members of the household." Income is considered "gross" income, prior to taxes. Exceptions to income include student financial aid, military housing, and cost of living allowances, and irregular income from occasional small jobs.*

COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?

If you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for telephone assistance under the program based criteria.

By signing and submitting the application, you certify under penalty of perjury that you, in fact, qualify for Lifeline and Link-Up benefits, and if, at any time, you become ineligible, you will notify Valley Telecommunications Cooperative Assn., Inc.

In addition, Valley's compliance with the FCC Regulations will include annual verification of eligibility of program participants. Verification procedures may include random beneficiary audits, periodic submission of documents, or annual self-certification.

HOW DO I APPLY?

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided with this brochure (include documentation) and mail it to:

Valley Telecommunications Cooperative

PO Box 7

Herreid SD 57632-0007

If you are applying for assistance under the income-based criteria, you must also include the supporting documentation of income as indicated.