

What is Lifeline Discount Telephone Service?

In today's highly interconnected world, telephones provide a vital link to government services, emergency help and community resources. For most of us, our work, families, doctors and friends are just a phone call away. Still, not everyone can afford the cost of having telephone service.

New York State Lifeline Discounted Telephone Service is an assistance program designed to make basic telephone service more affordable for income-eligible New Yorkers.

Offered by many telephone companies, Lifeline helps consumers stay connected and save money on their monthly telephone bills.



Connect With Savings.

Under New York State's Lifeline program, many telephone companies (including some wireless) provide discounts to help income-eligible New Yorkers save money on their phone bills. Contact your telephone company to learn more about their Lifeline program and apply today.

For more information and a list of telephone companies participating in the Lifeline program, visit the NYS Public Service Commission's website, www.AskPSC.com. You can also contact the Commission toll-free at 1-888-AskPSC1.



Save money on your phone bills.



9/12

40m



New York State Lifeline Discounted Telephone Service is an assistance program offered by many telephone providers, including some wireless companies, to help income-eligible consumers **save money** on their phone bills.

How Does Lifeline Work?

Qualifying consumers can apply for Lifeline through participating telephone companies and receive a discount on either their home (landline) telephone service or their wireless service. Lifeline benefits include:

- Savings as much as \$250 a year for landline service through lower basic local service charges and a waiver of the federal subscriber line charge.
- Free minutes, reduced rates and free phones for wireless customers.

Total savings and benefits will vary depending on your telephone company.

Can I get more than one discount?

Eligible customers may only receive one Lifeline service at a time, meaning the discount can be applied to either landline or wireless service but not both at the same time.

In addition, the Lifeline discount is available for only one line per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit, which is all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household.

Lifeline support may be available to eligible low-income consumers in group living facilities if they can demonstrate, when enrolling in the program, that any other Lifeline recipients at the same address are part of a separate household.

Do I Qualify for Lifeline?

You are eligible for Lifeline if your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines* or if you participate in any of the following assistance programs:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Family Assistance
- Safety Net Assistance
- Free School Lunch Program
- Non-Service Related Veteran's Disability Pension or Veteran's Surviving Spouse Pension



*For the latest income guidelines, visit www.AskPSC.com/lifeline or call 1-888-AskPSC1.

How do I apply?

You can apply for Lifeline directly through participating telephone companies. Contact your telephone company and ask about the program.

You can also obtain a list of landline and wireless companies that offer Lifeline in New York State by visiting www.AskPSC.com or calling 1-888-AskPSC1.

Please be aware that on an annual basis your telephone company will confirm that your Lifeline service eligibility is still in effect and that no one else in your household has Lifeline service. If you are no longer eligible, you will be notified that your discount will be discontinued.

What are the Tribal Lands Programs?

Residents of tribal lands may be eligible for additional Lifeline benefits, as well as a discount on initial activation of telephone service.

Enhanced Lifeline: This program provides additional discounts on the cost of landline or wireless telephone service for eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands. Eligibility includes all the criteria for non-Tribal consumers, as well as:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Tribal Lands Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met) or State assistance programs (if applicable).

Link Up: The Link Up Tribal Lands program provides a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a landline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also allows consumers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Federal rules prohibit eligible low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Link Up discount at a primary residence. Link Up support is only offered to carriers that are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands so not all carriers may discount their activation fee.