STAY CONNECTED with the Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Programs





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. The Lifeline provider must be an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to participate.

What Are the Benefits Under the Lifeline Program?

The Lifeline Program provides a \$5.25 per household, per month discount on your landline or wireless voice service or a \$9.25 per household, per month discount on your qualifying wireless or landline internet service. The discount appears in the form of a reduction to the bill you pay your service provider. Please note that the \$5.25 Lifeline support for standalone Lifeline voice service is scheduled to be eliminated in certain geographic areas beginning Dec. 1, 2024.*

Date	Wireless Voice	Wireless Internet	Landline Internet	
12/1/2021	1,000 Minutes	Speed: 3 G or Better Usage Allowance:	Speed: 25/3 Mbps or at least 4/1 Mbps Usage Allowance:	
		4.5 GB	1,229GB	
12/1/2022	1,000 Minutes	Speed: 3 G or Better	Speed: 25/3 Mbps or at least 4/1 Mbps	
		Usage Allowance: 4.5 GB	Usage Allowance: 1,280 GB	

Program Benefits

*The total elimination of the \$5.25 subsidy that is set to go into effect on Dec. 1, 2024, does not apply to those census blocks where there is only one Lifeline services provider in the census block.

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% 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 <u>https://www.lifelinesupport.org/companies-near-me/</u>. 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% of the federal poverty guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

2023 Income Guidelines

Household Size	135% of Federal Poverty Levels
1	\$19,683
2	\$26,622
3	\$33,561
4	\$40,500
Each additional person after 4	\$6,939

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 will be contacted by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) when it is time to recertify your eligibility.

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. The benefit is non-transferrable to another person.

You may re-qualify for Lifeline Assistance based on income (at or below 135% 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 plus a 15 day cure period. 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 Lifeline 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 2023 with the exception of certain areas); or
- A combination of landline or wireless telephone and internet service.

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 includes both voice and internet?
- Does the company offer any other discounted services, or products for Lifeline customers?

Are There Any Other Federal Programs?

Yes. There is a new and separate support program for internet service available under the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP can provide an eligible consumer \$30 a month toward the purchase of internet service and up to \$100 to purchase equipment to get internet service. Your provider does NOT need to be an ETC to provide your ACP service. To learn more, visit the <u>PUC website</u>, contact your provider or call 1-877-384-2575.

Wireline Companies

Armstrong Telephone Co. North

136 Front Street Addison, NY 14801 814-966-3207

Armstrong Telephone Co. PA

1755 SR 30 Clinton, PA 15026-0418 724-899-2211

Armstrong Telecommunications for Erie and Crawford Counties

160 Westview Drive Meadville, PA 16335 814-333-6731

Armstrong Telecommunications

Mercer County 123 Industrial Drive Grover City, PA 16127 724-458-7165

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 724-443-9600

Frontier Communications

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

Full Service Network, LP

Attn: Lifeline Department 600 Grant Street, Suite 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.

101 Laurel Highlands Place Donegal, PA 15628 724-593-2411 or 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 or 800-338-3300

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.

2075 Easton Turnpike 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)

Tri-Co Connections

22 North Main St. Mansfield, PA 16933 1-833-874-2277

Velocity.Net

P.O. Box 1778 Erie, PA 16512 814-833-9111

Venus Telephone Corporation

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

Verizon Lifeline Service - PA

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

Viasat Carrier Services Inc.

349 Inverness Drive South Englewood CO 80112 855-851-7419

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.

101 Laurel Highlands Place Donegal, PA 15628 724-722-3131

Wireless Companies

Airvoice Wireless d/b/a AirTalk

9920 Brooklet Drive Houston, TX 77099 (855) 924-7825

Amerimex

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

American Broadband d/b/a American Assistance

1480 Ford Street Maumee, OH 43537 866-765-2628

Assurance Wireless

PO Box 5040 Charleston, IL 61920-9907 888-321-5880

Boomerang Wireless d/b/a enTouch Wireless

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

Global Connections d/b/a Standup Wireless 5555 Oakbrook

Norcross, GA 30093 866-862-3253

iWireless, LLC

d/b/a Access Wireless 1 Levee Way, Suite 3104 Newport KY 41071 888-900-5899

Limitless Mobile

580A W. Southern Ave. South Williamsport, PA 17702 (570) 484-9648 **Qlink Wireless** 499 E. Sheridan Street, Suite 300 Dania, FL 33004 855-754-6543

Sage Telecom Communications d/b/a TruConnect 10440 North Central Expressway Suite 700 Dallas, TX 75231 888-449-4940

Tag Mobile Customer Service 1330 Capital Parkway

1330 Capital Parkway Carrollton, TX 75006 866-959-4918

Telrite Corporation

d/b/a Life Wireless Customer Service Department P.O. Box 2840 Covington, GA 30015 888-543-3620 888-543-3640

Tracfone d/b/a SafeLink

9700 North West, 112th Avenue Miami, FL 33178 800-SafeLink (800-723-3546)

Yourtel America, Inc. d/b/a "Yourtel" 401 E. Memorial Road, Suite 500 Oklahoma City, OK 73114 877-388-1082