



Consumer Alert

Lifeline and Link-up: Eligibility Requirements Have Been Expanded

The Michigan Public Service Commission urges qualifying low-income residents to apply for the Link-Up America and Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs. These programs make basic local telephone service more affordable for income-eligible families throughout Michigan. Those who qualify could receive discounts for monthly telephone bills and/or initial installation costs of telephone service.

What are the benefits?

Lifeline provides discounts for basic local wireline telephone service to eligible low-income customers.*

- Eligible low-income customers under age 65 can receive a minimum discount of \$8.25 per month (the current average discount is \$10.00 per month and varies depending on the provider).
- Eligible low-income customers 65 years of age or older can receive a minimum discount of \$12.35 per month.

Link-Up reduces the installation charge for phone service by 50%, up to \$30, for telephone service for those customers meeting income eligibility guidelines. Customers can request a deferred payment schedule for the remaining installation charges.

The rate reductions for both Lifeline and Link-Up cannot be greater than the cost of the basic service.

* Discount and reductions only apply to wireline telephone service.

How do you apply?

All local wireline telephone service providers in Michigan are required to provide Link-Up and Lifeline. Contact your local telephone company to apply. The phone number and information on Lifeline and Link-Up can generally be found in the front of your telephone book. You may be asked to provide documentation to demonstrate your eligibility.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for Link-Up and/or Lifeline, the customer's household income must be at or below the guidelines listed in the chart, or the customer must participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid,
- Food Stamps,
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8),
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP),
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, or
- The National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch

<u>150% of Poverty Guideline's Maximum Income</u>	
<u># of Household Members</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$15,600
2	\$21,000
3	\$26,400
4	\$31,800
5	\$37,200
6	\$42,600
7	\$48,000
8	\$53,400
For each Additional Household Member, Add	\$5,400

Telephone companies may require annual re-enrollment and verification of income eligibility.



The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. If you need assistance with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may make your needs known to this agency.