

Lifeline Program

Are you having difficulty paying your utility bills? Do you currently have telephone service and want to lower the bill?

If you are low-income, you may be eligible for a discount on basic local telephone service. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) urges qualifying residents to apply for the Lifeline Assistance Program. This program makes basic local telephone service more affordable for income-eligible families throughout Michigan. If you qualify, you can receive a discount for monthly telephone service.

Lifeline benefits if income eligible:

- *Under age 65* get minimum discount of \$8.25 per month, (current average is \$10.00 per month; varies depending on service provider)
- *Age 65 or older* get minimum discount of \$12.35 per month

NOTE: Some wireless companies may provide free phones and free service for low-income customers. Check with wireless phone companies.

How to apply for Lifeline?

Contact your local landline telephone company to apply. If you have a local telephone book, check in the front of the book for more information. You may also contact the MPSC, 800-292-9555, for a list of [participating companies](#) at www.michigan.gov/mpsc.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for Lifeline, your household income must be at or below the guidelines listed in the chart, or you 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 (free and reduced price lunch)

<u>150% of Poverty Guideline's Maximum Income</u>	
<u># of Household Members</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>
1	\$16,755
2	\$22,695
3	\$28,635
4	\$34,575
5	\$40,515
6	\$46,455
7	\$52,395
8	\$58,335
For each Additional Household Member add:	\$5,940

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