Michigan Public Service Commission
Outreach and Education Section
P.O. Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909
800.292.9555

consumer TIPS

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michigan.gov/mpsc

Lifeline Program - Voice and Broadband

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

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

Lifeline benefits if income eligible:

- *Under age 65* get minimum discount of $9.25 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 (voice only)

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

How do I apply for Lifeline?

Contact your local landline telephone company, wireless provider or broadband provider to apply.

You may also contact the MPSC, at 800-292-9555, for a list of participating companies.

**Companies require annual re-enrollment and verification of income eligibility.*

Who is eligible?

The federal eligibility criteria and rules have changed, however, Michigan was granted a waiver of these rules until December 31, 2017. The following are the current eligibility criteria for Michigan. 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 Assistance
- 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)
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefits

150% of Poverty Guideline	
Number of Household Members	**Annual Income (AGI)**
1	**$18,090**
2	**$24,360**
3	**$30,630**
4	**$36,900**
5	**$43,170**
6	**$49,440**
7	**$55,710**
8	**$61,980**
For each additional household member, add: $6,270	