

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.

Lifeline Terms and Conditions

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc. offers Lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers. The federal Lifeline and Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) programs provide monthly telephone service discounts on one telephone line or qualifying broadband internet access service (BIAS) per household to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service by lowering the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. The federal Lifeline monthly discount is \$9.25. The TAP provides an additional \$7.00 monthly discount on local landline telephone service (not broadband). In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Long distance blocking (either toll limitation or toll blocking) is available to eligible Lifeline consumers at no cost. Consumers who are eligible for Minnesota Telephone Discounts for landline service do not have to pay a deposit if they agree to block long distance service.

Lifeline Program Eligibility Information

Program Based Eligibility

Consumers are eligible for Lifeline if they, one of their dependents or their household participate in one of the following qualifying assistance programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps)
- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veteran’s Pension and Survivor Benefit

Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means.

Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year’s statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer’s participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.

Income Based Eligibility

In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

2019 Federal Poverty Guidelines – 135%

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$16,862	\$21,060	\$19,413
2	\$22,829	\$28,526	\$26,271
3	\$28,796	\$35,991	\$33,129
4	\$34,763	\$43,457	\$39,987
5	\$40,730	\$50,922	\$46,845
6	\$46,697	\$58,388	\$53,703
7	\$52,664	\$65,853	\$60,561
8	\$58,631	\$73,319	\$67,419
For each add’ l person, add	\$5,967	\$7,466	\$6,858

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year's state, federal or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits; Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen's compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

Tribal Eligibility

A subscriber who lives on Tribal lands and is an eligible resident of Tribal lands is eligible for Tribal Lifeline service or Tribal Link Up if the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents, or the subscriber's household participates in any of the above-listed qualifying assistance programs or one of the following Tribal-specific federal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met); or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). Tribal subscribers may also qualify if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Part of Lifeline Program Service

Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.'s Voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.'s Voice Lifeline Plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

BIAS minimum speed and usage allowance standards are required for the service to qualify.

Rates

Subscribers may receive the Lifeline credit qualifying telecommunication services, including bundled services that are normally offered by Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.. TAP is available only for land line telephone services. The federal Lifeline Credit is available for qualifying telecommunication services. Advertised rates do not include any applicable taxes or surcharges.

Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility

Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient's continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient's monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline Program.

Additional Lifeline Program Information

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either telephone or BIAS service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.