

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE DISCOUNT PLAN FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES**

Schools, libraries, and consortia including those entities that comply with 47 CFR, Section 54.501, as well as 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 765, will be eligible for the Universal Service Discount Plan for schools and libraries (Plan).

Discounts available to eligible schools and libraries shall be determined based on 47 CFR, Section 54.505 and 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 765.

Services purchased at a discount under this Plan shall not be resold.

**A. Terms and Conditions**

Plan provisions and eligibility are as detailed in 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 765 and 47 CFR beginning with Section 54.500.

**B. Prices**

Plan discounts are as detailed in 47 CFR, Section 54.505, as well as 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 765.

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT PLAN FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

Public and non-profit health care providers as defined in 47 CFR, Section 54.601 shall be eligible for this universal service support plan for health care providers (Plan). Services covered by the Plan are all telecommunications services. However, those with a bandwidth capacity are limited to a bandwidth capacity of 1.544 Mbps or less.

Services purchased pursuant to this Plan shall not be resold.

**A. Terms and Conditions**

Plan provisions and eligibility are as detailed in 47 CFR beginning with Section 54.601.

**B. Prices**

The amount of universal service support for an eligible service provided to a rural health care provider shall be the difference, if any, between the urban rate and the rural rate charged for the service, as defined within these rules.

Plan discounts/support are as detailed in 47 CFR, Section 54.605, 607 and 609.

**TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS****Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program (UTSAP)**

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**A. Eligibility Criteria<sup>/1/</sup>**

To be eligible to receive benefits under the Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program (UTSAP), an individual must meet the Lifeline Program eligibility criteria adopted by the FCC in 47 CFR 54.409, as amended through the FCC's Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197 and 10-90 (released April 27, 2016). See Eligibility Criteria, following.

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The Company will verify that the individual in the UTSAP for local exchange service qualifies as an eligible new subscriber. The Company may rely on eligibility verification provided by a National FCC Lifeline Eligibility Verifier, if one is available for the federal Lifeline Program, or directly verify that the individual in the UTSAP for local exchange service qualifies as an eligible new subscriber.

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Eligibility Criteria

(N)

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans or Survivors Pension Benefits
- Income based, at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

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Proof of eligibility will be required for all initial applicants.

UTSAP support is limited to a single subscription per household where household is defined to be any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. For purposes of this rule, an economic unit consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household.

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**B. UTSAP Assistance<sup>/1/</sup>**

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1. A one-time credit of up to \$35.00<sup>/2/</sup>, not to exceed the total connection charge, will be applied to each new eligible subscriber, as defined in A., preceding.
2. The State Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program is funded through voluntary contributions from Illinois customers as described in E., following.

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/1/ Pursuant to the FCC's "Lifeline" Order in WC Docket No. 11-42, adopted January 31, 2012, the Link-Up program is withdrawn effective April 1, 2012.

/2/ Pursuant to order of Ill. C.C. in Docket 15-0406 dated August 12, 2015.

**TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (cont'd)****C. Federal Lifeline Program**

Effective August 20, 2018, new Federal Lifeline Service is available only to qualifying residential customers who reside in AT&T Illinois retained ETC designated service areas as determined in Docket No. 18-0874, effective August 15, 2018. Effective November 20, 2018, Federal Lifeline Service is only available in the designated service areas.

1. The Federal Lifeline Program is a federally funded program established to provide monthly assistance to low income households. Eligible subscribers may receive a discount on monthly local exchange access service of \$5.25. All terms and conditions are consistent with the federal requirements as specified in 47 C.F.R. 54. (C)
2. The eligibility criteria for the federal Lifeline Program is as follows<sup>/1/</sup>:
  - a. Participation in one of the following programs:
    - Medicaid,
    - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),
    - Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
    - Federal Public Housing Assistance,
    - Veterans or Survivors Pension Benefit, or
  - b. Income based, at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
3. Federal Lifeline (Lifeline) service shall not be disconnected for nonpayment of toll charges.
4. Qualifying low-income subscribers who voluntarily elect toll blocking, where available, will not be required to pay a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline service. This service will only be provided at the customer's request.
5. Proof of eligibility will be required for all initial applicants. All applicants will be required to re-certify periodically consistent with the federal requirements in 47 C.F.R. 54. See C. 7., following.
6. Lifeline support is limited to a single subscription per household where household is defined to be any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. For purposes of this rule, an economic unit consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household.

<sup>/1/</sup> Effective December 2, 2016, in compliance with the FCC the Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization Third Report And Order, Further Report And Order, and Order on Reconsideration, WC Docket No. 11-42 (rel. April 27, 2016), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and National School Lunch Program's free lunch program are no longer criteria for the federal Lifeline program. Existing Lifeline subscribers qualified under these programs prior to December 2, 2016, and who remain qualified for these programs, may retain the federal Lifeline discount until such time as they must re-certify under current FCC rules and criteria. Effective November 20, 2018, qualified customers must reside in the designated areas in Paragraph C.

**TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (cont'd)****C. Federal Lifeline Program (cont'd)**

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7. Eligibility Determination, Certification, and Re-Certification:  
Effective March 24, 2020, the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier) will determine subscriber eligibility and conduct annual re- certification. The National Verifier will collect the customer's application, determine eligibility, and give an approval or denial for a Lifeline discount. Once approved, the National Verifier will retain the approval for 90 days, during which time the Company may use the eligibility to provide a Lifeline discount. The Lifeline credit will not be established until the customer's eligibility has been determined by the National Verifier and the customer contacts the Company to apply the Lifeline credit.

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**D. Reserved**

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**E. Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program (UTSAP) Voluntary Funding**

1. Customers wishing to participate in the funding of Universal Telephone Service Assistance Program (UTSAP) may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount to be included by the Company on the customer's monthly bill. The voluntary contribution shall not reduce the customer's total monthly bill amount due the Company for telephone services or other charges.

Residential customers may elect to contribute: \$0.50, \$1.00, \$2.00 or \$5.00

Business customers may elect to contribute: \$1.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$25.00

2. Customers may elect to discontinue or change the amount of monthly contribution on their bill at any time upon providing at least 30 days notice to the Company.
3. Failure by the customer in any month to remit the entire billed amount shall reduce the UTSAP contribution accordingly.

**ILLINOIS UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE**

Pursuant to the Illinois Public Utilities Act, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) ordered the establishment of a Section 13-301(d) Universal Service Support Fund. This fund provides support to those local exchange carriers found to be eligible under Section 13-301 (d).

All local exchange and interexchange carriers, certificated in the state of Illinois, are required to contribute to the fund based on their proportionate share of intrastate retail revenues. Carriers are to recover the required contributions via an explicit surcharge on the end user customer bill.

An Illinois Universal Service fee will be applied to customer's total intrastate service charges. This fee will be set pursuant to the Illinois Commerce Commission's Orders in Consolidated Docket Nos. 00-0233 and 00-0335.

**PROGRAM TO FOSTER ELIMINATION OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

The Program to Foster Elimination of the Digital Divide offers telephone customers the opportunity to make voluntary contributions to the Digital Divide Elimination Fund ("the fund"). The fund shall be used, subject to appropriation, by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs ("the Department") to assist community technology centers, public hospitals, libraries, and park districts in their efforts to address and eliminate the Digital Divide.

Customers wishing to participate in the funding of the Program to Foster Elimination of the Digital Divide may do so by electing to contribute, on a monthly basis, a fixed amount to be included by the Company on the customer's monthly bill. Contributions shall be collected each month from the customer's bill and remittance shall be reported and transferred to the Department or its designee as required by 83 Ill. Adm. Code Section 758.60. The voluntary contribution shall not reduce the customer's total amount due the Company for telephone services or other charges appearing on the bill.

Residential and business customers may elect to contribute: \$0.50, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00, \$15.00 or \$25.00

Customers may elect to discontinue or change the amount of the monthly contribution on their bill at any time upon providing at least 30 days notice to Company.

Failure by the customer in any month to remit the entire billed amount shall reduce the contribution accordingly.

Pursuant to order of Ill. C.C. in Docket 01-0825 dated July 10, 2002.