

## **TARIFF DISTRIBUTION**

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DATE: June 11, 2019

STATE: KENTUCKY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/11/2019

TYPE OF DISTRIBUTION: Approved

PURPOSE: Lifeline changes due to implementation of the National Verifier.

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## A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### A3.31 Lifeline

#### A3.31.1 Description of Service

- A. *Effective August 14, 2018*, Lifeline service is available only to qualifying residence customers who reside in certain census blocks where AT&T Kentucky retains Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation, shown in Exhibit B of the Petition of AT&T Kentucky for Order Confirming Relinquishment of Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation in Specified Areas, Case No. 2017-00416, entered March 23, 2018. (C)
- B. The Lifeline program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunications services to low income subscribers by providing a credit to monthly recurring local service for qualifying residential subscribers. Basic terms and conditions are in compliance with FCC rules and regulations including the FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket No. 11-42, adopted January 31, 2012, and 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) ("Lifeline Reform and Modernization Order"), *including implementation of a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier)*. Specific terms and conditions are as prescribed by the Kentucky Public Service Commission and are as set forth in this tariff. (C)
- C. Lifeline is supported by the federal universal service support mechanism.
- D. Federal uniform support of \$9.25 is available for each Lifeline service and is passed through to an eligible customer via a monthly Federal Lifeline credit. An additional \$3.50 credit is provided by the Company. The total monthly Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in Kentucky is \$12.75. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service.

#### A3.31.2 Terms and Conditions

##### A. General

1. One low income credit is available per household and is applicable to the primary residential connection only. 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 the purposes of this rule, an economic unit consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household.
2. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residence customers.
3. Toll blocking, if elected, will be provided at no charge to the Lifeline subscriber.
4. The deposit requirement is not applicable to a Lifeline customer who subscribes to toll blocking. If a Lifeline customer removes toll blocking prior to establishing an acceptable credit history, a deposit may be required. When applicable, advance payments will not exceed the connection and local service charges for one month.
5. Lifeline service is exempt from the Installment Billing Service Fee.
6. The Federal Universal Service Charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers.
7. A Lifeline subscriber's local service will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Local service may be denied for non-payment of local calls in accordance with A2. Access to toll service may be denied for non-payment of toll charges. A Lifeline subscriber's request for reconnection of local service will not be denied if the service was previously denied for non-payment of toll charges.
8. Lifeline is not available for resale.

## A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### A3.31 Lifeline (Cont'd)

#### A3.31.2 Terms and Conditions (Cont'd)

##### B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for Lifeline, a customer must be a current recipient of any one of the following low-income assistance programs.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - c. Medicaid
  - d. Federal Public Housing Assistance
  - e. (DELETED)
  - f. (DELETED)
  - g. (DELETED)
  - h. Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for Lifeline.
3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

##### C. *Eligibility Determination, Certification, and Re-Certification*

*Effective June 11, 2019, the Company will no longer be responsible for determining Lifeline eligibility. Beginning June 11, 2019, the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier) will determine subscriber eligibility, conduct annual recertification, and populate the Lifeline Eligibility Database (all subscribers deemed eligible for the Lifeline Program). The Company shall continue to support customers by assisting them with their lifeline applications, including but not limited to submitting a customer's Lifeline application and applicable supporting documentation to the National Verifier. 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 customer may also use their eligibility to obtain a Lifeline discount from a Company other than AT&T.*

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Note 1: Effective December 2, 2016, in compliance with the FCC "Lifeline Reform and Modernization Order", 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 eligible programs under 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 Lifeline discount until such time as they must re-certify under current FCC rules and criteria. Effective August 14, 2018, Lifeline discounts noted in this paragraph will only apply to Lifeline subscribers who reside in designated census blocks referenced in A3.31.1. A.