

NOTE 1: Telephone Assistance Grant (TAG) is suspended effective April 1, 2012, as authorized in (C)  
Docket 5-TI-2134.

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## LIFELINE TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## A. DESCRIPTION

The Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program is a residential service offering only. Effective March 31, 2017, the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program will be available only to qualifying customers who reside in Connect America Fund II (CAF II) Funded Census Blocks, shown in Exhibit B of AT&T Notice of Partial ETC Relinquishment, Filed October 27, 2016, in Docket No.6720-TI-225, and supplemented December 23, 2016.

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Customers who qualify for this service will have an authorized monthly credit applied to their primary exchange access line. The Lifeline monthly rate consists of single party residential service, 911 charges, Police and Fire Protection Fee, State Universal Service Fund assessment, Remainder and Telecommunications Utility Trade Practice assessments (if applicable), and the Federal End User Common Line (EUCL) charge. Qualifying customers will receive applicable federal and state Lifeline credits intended to reduce the cost of the residential service offering.

Participants residing on tribal lands will receive discounts as defined in Title 47—Code of Federal Regulations, Section 54.403(a)(2), provided the tribal lands fall within the census blocks described in this section.

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## B. REGULATIONS

Participation in the specified income assistance programs must be verified by the State of Wisconsin through the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) for other than the Homestead Tax Credit. The Homestead Tax Credit will be verified by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Verification of eligibility will be deemed to be the finding of the Social Security Number (SSN) and corresponding name and address of the listed customer in the active records of the DWD for at least one of the specified income assistance programs listed below:

1. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
3. Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
4. National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
5. Federal Public Housing Assistance/Section 8
6. Medicaid
7. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
8. Income based, at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
9. Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit<sup>/1</sup>

Proof of eligibility will be required for all initial applicants and all applicants will be required to re-certify every year.

<sup>/1</sup>/ Effective December 2, 2016, in compliance with the FCC 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"), Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit is a criterion for the federal Lifeline program. Subscribers qualified under this criterion will receive only the federal Lifeline discount.

## 2. LIFELINE TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## B. REGULATIONS

## Eligibility Determination, Certification, and Re-Certification:

Effective March 24, 2020, the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier) will determine subscriber eligibility and conduct annual recertification. 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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(N)

Applicants residing on tribal lands [referenced in Title 25 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 20.1, paragraph (v)] may verify participation in one of the programs listed above or the following programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start (must meet program's income qualifying standard), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or National School Lunch Program (free lunch program)

Applicants residing on tribal lands must sign under penalty of perjury that he/she resides on a reservation, as defined in Title 25 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 20.1, paragraph (v), and receives benefits from at least one of the programs referenced above. The Tribal Lands Applicant also must agree to notify Ameritech if they cease to participate in the program.

Credits will appear on an eligible customer's bill on the bill date next following the date of application for the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program. In cases where a customer's eligibility date as found in DWD records precedes the last bill date prior to application, credit will also be given on one month's prior bill.

Except in cases where a customer's qualifying income assistance program includes LIEAP, eligibility for the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program will continue until the bill date next following a failure to find the customer's SSN in the DWD records.

When LIEAP is one of a customer's qualifying income assistance programs, the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program will continue until the bill date in December next following the close of the heating season.

2. LIFELINE TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (Cont'd)  
B. REGULATIONS (Cont'd)

The Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program will apply only to the first Network Access Line in a verified eligible customer's principal place of residence.

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.

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(N)

The Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program is not available to customers who are dependents for federal income tax purposes as defined in 26 U.S.C. Section 152 (1986) unless the customer is more than 60 years of age.

The amount of the credit for the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program shall not exceed the sum of the end user common line charge and the basic local exchange rate.

As a participant in the Lifeline Telephone Assistance Program, customers are eligible to receive toll blocking service at no charge.

Local service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Blocking Service.

3. UNIVERSAL SERVICE DISCOUNT PLAN FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Schools, libraries, and consortia including those entities that comply with 47 CFR, Section 54.501 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.

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

A. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Plan provisions and eligibility are as detailed in 47 CFR beginning with Section 54.500.

B. PRICES

Plan discounts are as detailed in 47 CFR, Section 54.505.

**4. 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.

**4. WISCONSIN UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE (WUSF)****A. DESCRIPTION**

As allowed by WI State statute, (Senate Bill 40 amended part 196.218 (3)), all retail customer bills on and after February 19, 2009 shall reflect an additional charge to fund the Universal Service Fund. The purpose of the fund is to implement a competitively neutral funding mechanism that promotes universal telecommunication service to all Wisconsin residents by ensuring availability of basic telecommunications services at just, reasonable, and affordable rates that are reasonably comparable between urban and rural areas of Wisconsin.

**B. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The surcharge will be applied to all retail intrastate end-users for the purpose of recovering contributions to the WUSF. Lifeline customers will be exempt from this surcharge.

**C. RATE**

Per residence access line	\$4.14	(I)
Per business access line	\$4.14	(I)
Per CENTREX access line	\$0.46	(I)
Per Primary Rate Interface ISDN	\$20.70	(I)