

Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone Facts

- % The **Lifeline and Link-Up** programs provided more than \$700 million in support to qualified low-income consumers in 2003.
- % More than 6 million low-income consumers benefit from **Lifeline and Link-Up** discounts each year.
- % More than 1,500 telephone companies in the United States and U.S. territories participate in **Lifeline and Link-Up**.
- % Both wireline and wireless companies participate in **Lifeline and Link-Up**. Contact your local wireless or wireline phone company for more information.



For more information on programs to help you afford phone service, contact the Federal Communications Commission by phone or visit our Web site, www.fcc.gov/cgb



Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20444

Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone



A Publication of the
Federal Communications Commission
1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice
1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY
www.fcc.gov/cgb

Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone

What are Lifeline and Link-Up?

Lifeline and Link-Up are federal programs offering telephone discounts to low-income consumers in all U.S. states and territories. The discounts are applied to the phone at the primary residence. This can be a wireline or wireless phone. Those who qualify may receive discounts of up to \$30 on telephone hook-up charges (Link-Up) and between \$5.25 and \$10.00 on monthly basic phone service (Lifeline), depending on where you live. Additionally, some states give matching discounts, so you may save even more.

Who Qualifies?

These programs are available to qualifying consumers in every state, territory, and commonwealth. Eligibility varies by state. States that have their own state Lifeline program may have their own criteria. In states that rely solely on the Federal Low Income Program, a consumer must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in one of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and the National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program.

How Can I Sign Up?

To apply for Lifeline and/or Link-Up, call your local telephone company. For more information, contact the FCC at 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) voice, 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) TTY, or by mail at FCC, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554. You may also visit the FCC's Web site: www.fcc.gov/cgb/getconnected

*"I'm on Supplemental Security. I found out that **Lifeline** could save me \$10.00 a month. That would really help!"*



*"Our school gave us a computer. Because of **Lifeline and Link-Up**, our parents were able to get a phone. Now we can use the Internet to help with our homework."*

*"I called the number in my state to find out if I qualify for **Link-Up**. It helped pay for my phone hook-up."*



*"I needed a phone for my family's health and safety. Now I can afford phone service through **Lifeline and Link-Up**."*

Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone

For more information about **Get Connected: Afford-A-Phone**, visit our Web site at:

www.fcc.gov/cgb/getconnected

Or call or write us at:

1-888-CALL-FCC
(1-888-225-5322) voice
1-888-TELL-FCC
(1-888-835-5322) TTY

FCC Get Connected
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554.

For questions about eligibility or participation, contact your local telephone company or your state's regulatory agency, like the Public Utilities Commission.

To find out how to reach your state's regulatory agency, visit the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Web site at:

www.naruc.org/resources/state/shtml

You can also go to www.lifelinesupport.org.