

Since 1985, the Lifeline program has provided reduced cost phone service to eligible families and individuals so that they can stay in touch with loved ones, medical professionals, employers, and more. The benefit may be used on one landline or cell phone per household.

In Illinois, the program is overseen by non-profit, Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation, organized under the auspices of the Illinois Commerce Commission. I handle publicity for the board.

I wanted to provide you with updated information about how an individual or family may qualify for discounted service through the Lifeline program. In addition to landline and cell phone service, some landline providers also offer reduced cost broadband.

Enclosed is a flyer, in English and Spanish, with eligibility requirements for the program. I have also included those requirements below. You will see that Federal Public Housing Assistance, which includes Housing Choice Vouchers (previously Section 8), is a qualifying program.

For recipients of Federal Public Housing Assistance, an award letter with the name of the program, date of the award, name of the participant, and award amount OR a Public Housing lease agreement with the type of Public Housing Assistance Credit used will prove eligibility when applying for the Lifeline program.

To enroll in the Lifeline program, an eligible person should call the telephone provider that serves their residence or a participating cell phone provider of their choice. Contact information for Illinois telephone providers is enclosed.

### **Lifeline eligibility**

To qualify for the federal Lifeline program, individuals or families must have an income of 135% or less of federal poverty guidelines or participate in any of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance, including Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

### **Illinois' Installation Program**

In addition to the Federally-funded program, Illinois has a program, funded entirely through voluntary donations, to subsidize the cost of installing a Landline phone.

## **Illinois Telephone Provider Contact Information**

To reach **AT&T:**

1-888-256-5378

[www.att.com/lifeline](http://www.att.com/lifeline)

To reach **Frontier Communications:**

1-800-921-8101

[www.frontier.com](http://www.frontier.com)

To reach **Moultrie Independent Telephone Company:**

1-217-873-5211

[www.moultriemulticorp.com/mitco.htm](http://www.moultriemulticorp.com/mitco.htm)

To reach **Consolidated Communications:**

1-800-553-9981

[www.consolidated.com](http://www.consolidated.com)

To reach **Geneseo Telephone Company:**

1-800-852-3611

1-309-944-2103

[www.geneseotelephone.com](http://www.geneseotelephone.com)

To reach **McDonough Telephone Cooperative:**

1-309-776-3211

1-888-640-4334

[www.mdtc.net](http://www.mdtc.net)

To reach **Gallatin River Telephone Company:**

1-800-223-1851

[www.gallatinriver.com](http://www.gallatinriver.com)





## Do you need Local Phone Service, but can't afford it?



You may be eligible for a credit each month to lower the cost of your local phone service.

The Lifeline program provides this benefit to eligible individuals and families.

You're eligible for Lifeline if your income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or you participate in any of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program

To determine your eligibility for Lifeline and to enroll in this program, call your local phone company.

For AT&T call: 1-888-256-5378

For Frontier Communications call: 1-800-921-8101

All others: Call your local telephone company

**Lifeline**  
UNIVERSAL SERVICE  
TELEPHONE PROGRAM

*This program is supported by voluntary contributions. Contributions can be made through monthly donations of between 50 cents and \$5 on local phone bills or by sending contributions to:  
UTAC, P.O. Box 1176  
Springfield, IL 62705*

*Contributions are deductible on income taxes to the extent allowed by law.*

A Message from the Universal Service Telephone Program  
P.O. Box 1176, Springfield, Illinois 62705