

1. Tariff Information and General Regulations

1.6 Customer Assistance Programs

1.6.1 Reserved for Future Use	

1.6.2 Lifeline	
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A.	Lifeline is an assistance program which provides for a reduction in the monthly rate for one exchange service line per household for qualifying low income residence customers at the customer's principal place of residence.	(C)
B.	<p>In order to qualify for Lifeline assistance, the applicant must meet one of the following certification criteria.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicant's total gross annual income must not exceed 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. 2. Applicant must be approved for and/or receiving aid from one of the following assistance programs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a Food Stamps) b. Federal Public Housing Assistance c. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) d. Medicaid e. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) f. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) g. National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program 3. The applicant, at the time of application, must certify under penalty of perjury to be receiving benefits from at least one of the above assistance programs and identify the program(s) from which the customer receives assistance, or, if qualifying under the income criterion, present documents representing proof of total household income and certify to the accuracy of income and number of household members represented in the application. 	(T) (T) (T)
C.	<p>The Telephone Company will provide a credit in accordance with the following provisions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A recurring reduction of an amount equal to the End User Common Line Charge (EUCL) as per The FairPoint Telephone Companies Tariff FCC No. 1 and an additional recurring reduction applied to the monthly rate for one residence exchange service line furnished to an eligible residence exchange service customer at the customer's principle place of residence. This reduction may be applied to the monthly rate for the following services. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. One – or two party unlimited basic exchange service b. Residence Measured Service c. Residence Measured Service Four Element (4E) 	(T)

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (Cont'd)

J. LIFELINE PROGRAM

1. Lifeline is an assistance program which provides, for qualifying low income customers, a monthly credit toward one residential network access line per household at the customer's principal place of residence.

2. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (f/k/a Food Stamps) (T)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (T)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program (N)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (N)

In addition, if the applicant's household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, the applicant may qualify for assistance under the Lifeline Program. (N)

The applicant must at the time of application, certify under penalty of perjury receipt of benefits from at least one of the above assistance programs and, identify the program(s) from which the customer receives assistance or so certify household income level. In addition, the applicant must agree to notify the Company when the customer ceases to receive such assistance or if household income level ceases to meet required levels. (C)

3. Eligible Customers are those that meet the following criteria:

- A. Must be receiving aid from at least one of the assistance programs or meet the household income requirement listed in 2above. (C)
- B. Must be the billed party for the residential network access line to which the credit is to be applied. (C)
- C. Must not be a member of a household receiving lifeline benefits from any service provider. (C)

4. The credit to the network access line provided by this program is applicable only to the monthly rate of one residential network access line per household at the customer's principal place of residence. The credit will equal \$1.75 or the tariffed rate for the network access line to which the credit will apply, whichever is less. (C)

5. Eligible customers receiving the Lifeline credit will not be charged the End User Common Line Charge (EUCL) as per FairPoint Tariff FCC No. 2. (T)

6. The service of an eligible customer receiving the Lifeline credit may not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges unless a waiver of this provision is granted by the Commission.

7. An eligible customer who elects toll blocking shall not be required to provide a service deposit in order to initiate the Lifeline credit.

8. Effective April 1, 2012, Lifeline customers will no longer receive federal assistance known as Link-Up toward installation of their network access line.

