

Low-Income Telephone Assistance Programs

Link-Up

Link-Up is a plan that assists qualified low-income lowans in obtaining basic telephone service by providing:

- Reduced connection charges for basic phone service by 50 percent or \$30, whichever is less.
- Deferred payment of connection charges, without interest.

Lifeline

Lifeline is a plan that assists qualified low-income lowans by providing a monthly reduction on their telephone bill. This reduction varies by service provider and can range up to \$10. Please contact your local telephone provider for details.

Questions?

Call your local telephone provider.

NOTE:

Low-income telephone assistance does not cover the cost of a telephone or the cost of wiring inside your home.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for assistance in either, or both of the programs, you must meet income-based criterion currently defined as at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines **OR** participate in at least one of the following:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program (NSL)

To receive either or both of the Low-Income Telephone Assistance Programs:

1. Complete the certification form on the other side of this brochure and return it to your local telephone company's business office. This address can be found in your local telephone directory.
2. If you receive an eligibility verification form, complete and return it to your local telephone company within 30 days. Verification forms are mailed to randomly selected subscribers every year. Your telephone company may suspend your eligibility for low-income assistance if you do not return the form.

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Sponsored by:

Iowa Telecommunications Association
Iowa Utilities Board
Rural Iowa Independent Telephone Assoc.
Mechanicsville Telephone Company

Link-up and Lifeline Assistance Certification
(Please print)

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Phone number where you may be reached or receive messages: _____

Please answer the following questions (indicate by check mark):

1. By filling out this certification form, I (the applicant) request:

_____ Low-income telephone connection assistance (Link-Up) and/or

_____ Low-income monthly telephone bill assistance (Lifeline)

2. Have you previously received telephone connection (Link-Up) assistance at the above address?

_____ Yes

_____ No

If the answer is "yes," you are not eligible to receive telephone connection (Link-Up) assistance.

3. Are you currently participating in any of the following programs:

_____ Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)

_____ Food Stamps

_____ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

_____ Federal Public Housing Assistance Section 8

_____ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

_____ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF)

_____ National School Lunch Program (NSL) Free Lunch Program; **or**

_____ Is your income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines?
(Proof of income may be required)

I understand completion of this certification form does not constitute immediate acceptance into this program. I agree to notify my telecommunications provider if I cease to participate in any of the public assistance programs I checked above or if my income becomes greater than 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand that I must meet the above qualifications to receive assistance from these programs.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Prompt return of this certification form to your local telephone provider is necessary to ensure proper credits to your account.

Certified low-income telephone assistance subscribers who receive an eligibility verification form from their local telephone company must return that form to their telephone company within 30 days to ensure the continuation of assistance benefits.