

## **TELEPHONE SUBSIDIES THROUGH THE LIFELINE PROGRAM**

**IMPORTANT: LIFELINE DISCOUNT CAN BE USED EITHER FOR A CELL PHONE  
OR A RESIDENTIAL PHONE, BUT NOT FOR BOTH**

### **COVID CHANGES FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE**

There was a moratorium on telephone cut-offs for non-payment, but it expired on December 31, 2021. For those with financial hardship due to COVID, there is an additional 180-day grace period that goes beyond the expiration date. Contact your telephone company.

### **FREE CELL PHONES AND CELL PHONE SERVICE FROM LIFELINE**

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

A free cell phone with 350 free minutes for calls per month, unlimited free texting, and limited internet service (4.5 GB of data per month). To avoid using your own phone internet service, connect to a wireless service at a restaurant or library.

Use the websites below to get information and to apply.

a. Assurance Wireless

[https://www.assurancewireless.com/?utm\\_source=internal&utm\\_medium=adwords&keyword=lifeline%20phones&gclid=Cj0KCOjwguDeBRDCARIsAGxuU8bM-mCjhCRBuIqpbSXvoJ4hEELU67iF64ssKoyYxn1-jX8foTqXyL8aAhdLEALw\\_wcB-898-4888](https://www.assurancewireless.com/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=adwords&keyword=lifeline%20phones&gclid=Cj0KCOjwguDeBRDCARIsAGxuU8bM-mCjhCRBuIqpbSXvoJ4hEELU67iF64ssKoyYxn1-jX8foTqXyL8aAhdLEALw_wcB-898-4888)

b. Safelink Wireless

<https://www.safelinkwireless.com/Enrollment/Safelink/en/Web/www/default/index.html#!/about>

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR BOTH ASSURANCE WIRELESS AND SAFELINK WIRELESS**

- A household is automatically eligible if they receive any of the following benefits: Temporary Assistance, Food Stamps (SNAP), HEAP, Medicaid, Public or Section 8 Housing, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans Pension or Veterans Survivors Benefits.
- A household is eligible if their income is below 135% of the Federal Poverty Level, but the easiest method of application is to mail in documentation of receipt of one of the above benefits.

**YOU CANNOT USE LIFELINE FOR BOTH CELL AND RESIDENTIAL PHONES. YOU MUST CHOOSE.**

### **RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE SUBSIDIES WITH LIFELINE**

**DEFINITION:** Lifeline Telephone Service offers discounts on local residential telephone service to low-income families. The family pays \$1 per month, plus a small amount for each local call made. If the household has no residential phone and wants this, there is only a \$10 installation fee.

The advantage of using your Lifeline Discount for a residential phone is that you can then buy DSL, at a \$9.25 discount, and have unlimited internet on your computer. DSL stands for “Digital Subscriber Line.” It is a way of getting internet service on your computer or your laptop through your telephone line. It is therefore one of the most accessible methods of getting internet service in the U.S.

**HOUSEHOLDS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE** for Lifeline reduced-rate residential telephone service if they receive any of the following benefits (same list as for Lifeline cell service):

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Disability Pension
- Veterans Surviving Spouse Pension
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Public or Section 8 Housing

If they do not receive one of these benefits, they may be eligible if household income is less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Level, but the easiest method of application is to mail in documentation of receipt of one of the above benefits.

The application, and more information, are available online at

**<https://www.verizon.com/support/residential/account/manage-account/lifeline-discount>**

Or call Verizon at **800- 837-4966**. Ask for Customer Service, then ask about Lifeline.