



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES COUNTIES WHERE CONDITIONAL FORBEARANCE FROM THE LIFELINE VOICE OBLIGATION APPLIES

WC Docket No. 11-42

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces the counties in which conditional forbearance from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported voice service applies, pursuant to the Commission's *2016 Lifeline Order*.¹ This forbearance applies only to the Lifeline voice obligation of eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that are designated for purposes of receiving both high-cost and Lifeline support (high-cost/Lifeline ETCs), and not to Lifeline-only ETCs.² The Appendix lists the counties where the Commission's conditional forbearance from high-cost/Lifeline ETCs' Lifeline voice obligation will apply effective on September 21, 2019.

The *2016 Lifeline Order* established conditional forbearance from Lifeline voice obligations in targeted areas where certain competitive conditions are met.³ To accomplish this forbearance, the Commission directed the Bureau to release a yearly public notice announcing the counties in which the competitive conditions are met.⁴ In particular, the Commission granted forbearance from high-cost/Lifeline ETCs' obligation to offer and advertise Lifeline voice service in counties where the following conditions are met: (1) 51% of Lifeline subscribers in the county are obtaining broadband Internet access service; (2) there are at least three other providers of Lifeline broadband Internet access service that each serve at least 5% of the Lifeline broadband subscribers in that county; and (3) the ETC does not actually receive federal high-cost universal service support.⁵

The counties listed in the Appendix meet the two competitive conditions;⁶ and for ETCs that are receiving high-cost support in these counties, the forbearance applies only in areas within the county

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962, 4082-4093, paras. 335-60 (2016) (*2016 Lifeline Order*).

² *Id.* at 4078-79, para. 325.

³ *Id.* at 4079, para. 326.

⁴ *Id.* at 4093, para. 359.

⁵ *Id.* at 4082-83, 4090-93, paras. 335, 354-60.

⁶ Using National Lifeline Accountability Database data as of March 2019, approximately 77% of the counties identified in the Appendix were also eligible for this conditional forbearance in 2018. The remaining 23% of the counties newly met both competitive conditions in 2019. There are also 698 counties that are no longer eligible for conditional forbearance because they do not meet the two competitive conditions in 2018. See *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Counties Where Conditional Forbearance From the Lifeline Voice Obligation Applies*, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 7303 (WCB 2018).

where the ETC does not receive high-cost support.⁷ We note that this forbearance does not grant relief from the Lifeline voice obligation as to those Lifeline subscribers that the high-cost/Lifeline ETC serves as of the date of this Public Notice.⁸ Additionally, this forbearance does not preclude ETCs from electing to provide and receive reimbursement for Lifeline-discounted voice service.⁹

This forbearance will apply in the counties identified in the Appendix of this Public Notice, to the extent that ETCs are not receiving federal high-cost universal service support in those areas, until 60 days after the Bureau issues a Public Notice in 2020 updating the list of counties in which the Commission's conditional forbearance applies.¹⁰

For further information, please contact Nathan Eagan, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-0991, or at nathan.eagan@fcc.gov.

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⁷ *Id.* at 4093, para. 359.

⁸ *Id.* at 4083, 4085, paras. 335, 340.

⁹ *Id.* at 4085, para. 342.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 4093, para. 360.

Appendix
Counties and County Equivalents, by State, Where Conditional Forbearance of Lifeline
Voice Obligation Applies

STATE	COUNTY
AL	ESCAMBIA COUNTY
AZ	MOHAVE COUNTY
AZ	PIMA COUNTY
AZ	PINAL COUNTY
AZ	SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
AZ	YUMA COUNTY
AR	BENTON COUNTY
AR	CLARK COUNTY
AR	CLEVELAND COUNTY
AR	COLUMBIA COUNTY
AR	CONWAY COUNTY
AR	CRAIGHEAD COUNTY
AR	CRITTENDEN COUNTY
AR	CROSS COUNTY
AR	FAULKNER COUNTY
AR	GARLAND COUNTY
AR	GREENE COUNTY
AR	HEMPSTEAD COUNTY
AR	HOT SPRING COUNTY
AR	JACKSON COUNTY
AR	JOHNSON COUNTY
AR	LEE COUNTY
AR	LITTLE RIVER COUNTY
AR	LONOKE COUNTY
AR	MILLER COUNTY
AR	MISSISSIPPI COUNTY
AR	MONROE COUNTY
AR	NEVADA COUNTY
AR	OUACHITA COUNTY
AR	PHILLIPS COUNTY
AR	POINSETT COUNTY
AR	POPE COUNTY
AR	PRAIRIE COUNTY
AR	PULASKI COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
AR	ST. FRANCIS COUNTY
AR	SALINE COUNTY
AR	UNION COUNTY
AR	WASHINGTON COUNTY
AR	WHITE COUNTY
CA	ALAMEDA COUNTY
CA	BUTTE COUNTY
CA	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
CA	FRESNO COUNTY
CA	GLENN COUNTY
CA	HUMBOLDT COUNTY
CA	IMPERIAL COUNTY
CA	KERN COUNTY
CA	KINGS COUNTY
CA	LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CA	MADERA COUNTY
CA	MERCED COUNTY
CA	NAPA COUNTY
CA	ORANGE COUNTY
CA	PLACER COUNTY
CA	RIVERSIDE COUNTY
CA	SACRAMENTO COUNTY
CA	SAN BENITO COUNTY
CA	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CA	SAN DIEGO COUNTY
CA	SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
CA	SOLANO COUNTY
CA	STANISLAUS COUNTY
CA	SUTTER COUNTY
CA	TEHAMA COUNTY
CA	TULARE COUNTY
CA	VENTURA COUNTY
CA	YOLO COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
CA	YUBA COUNTY
CO	BOULDER COUNTY
CO	EAGLE COUNTY
CO	EL PASO COUNTY
CO	WELD COUNTY
GA	BALDWIN COUNTY
GA	BIBB COUNTY
GA	BROOKS COUNTY
GA	BURKE COUNTY
GA	CHARLTON COUNTY
GA	CLARKE COUNTY
GA	CRISP COUNTY
GA	DEKALB COUNTY
GA	DOUGHERTY COUNTY
GA	FLOYD COUNTY
GA	FULTON COUNTY
GA	GLYNN COUNTY
GA	GORDON COUNTY
GA	HART COUNTY
GA	JONES COUNTY
GA	LOWNDES COUNTY
GA	MCINTOSH COUNTY
GA	OCONEE COUNTY
GA	PEACH COUNTY
GA	RICHMOND COUNTY
GA	TIFT COUNTY
GA	TURNER COUNTY
GA	WALKER COUNTY
GA	WORTH COUNTY
ID	FREMONT COUNTY
ID	ONEIDA COUNTY
IL	ALEXANDER COUNTY
IL	FAYETTE COUNTY
IN	FULTON COUNTY
KS	ATCHISON COUNTY
KS	BUTLER COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
KS	CHEROKEE COUNTY
KS	COWLEY COUNTY
KS	DOUGLAS COUNTY
KS	HARVEY COUNTY
KS	JACKSON COUNTY
KS	LEAVENWORTH COUNTY
KS	RENO COUNTY
KS	SEDGWICK COUNTY
KS	SHAWNEE COUNTY
KS	SUMNER COUNTY
KS	WYANDOTTE COUNTY
KY	CALDWELL COUNTY
KY	CAMPBELL COUNTY
KY	CHRISTIAN COUNTY
KY	CLARK COUNTY
KY	DAVIESS COUNTY
KY	HENDERSON COUNTY
KY	HOPKINS COUNTY
KY	JEFFERSON COUNTY
KY	LOGAN COUNTY
KY	MCCRACKEN COUNTY
KY	MADISON COUNTY
KY	OLDHAM COUNTY
KY	SHELBY COUNTY
KY	SIMPSON COUNTY
KY	TODD COUNTY
KY	TRIMBLE COUNTY
KY	WARREN COUNTY
LA	ASCENSION PARISH
ME	ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY
MD	BALTIMORE COUNTY
MD	CHARLES COUNTY
MD	DORCHESTER COUNTY
MD	HARFORD COUNTY
MD	HOWARD COUNTY
MD	BALTIMORE CITY
MI	ANTRIM COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
MI	ARENAC COUNTY
MI	BERRIEN COUNTY
MI	GLADWIN COUNTY
MI	GRATIOT COUNTY
MI	HILLSDALE COUNTY
MI	LAKE COUNTY
MI	OTSEGO COUNTY
MI	SAGINAW COUNTY
MI	WAYNE COUNTY
MN	BECKER COUNTY
MN	CARLTON COUNTY
MN	CHISAGO COUNTY
MN	CLAY COUNTY
MN	DAKOTA COUNTY
MN	FREEBORN COUNTY
MN	HENNEPIN COUNTY
MN	ISANTI COUNTY
MN	ITASCA COUNTY
MN	JACKSON COUNTY
MN	KANABEC COUNTY
MN	LYON COUNTY
MN	MARTIN COUNTY
MN	MILLE LACS COUNTY
MN	NICOLLET COUNTY
MN	POLK COUNTY
MN	RAMSEY COUNTY
MN	ST. LOUIS COUNTY
MN	STEARNS COUNTY
MN	WABASHA COUNTY
MN	WASHINGTON COUNTY
MS	WINSTON COUNTY
MO	BOONE COUNTY
MO	JACKSON COUNTY
MO	JASPER COUNTY
MO	MISSISSIPPI COUNTY
MO	NEW MADRID COUNTY
MO	ST. LOUIS COUNTY
MO	SCOTT COUNTY
MO	ST. LOUIS CITY

STATE	COUNTY
NV	NYE COUNTY
NM	CIBOLA COUNTY
NM	LOS ALAMOS COUNTY
ND	BOTTINEAU COUNTY
OH	CUYAHOGA COUNTY
OH	LORAIN COUNTY
OH	TRUMBULL COUNTY
OK	ADAIR COUNTY
OK	ATOKA COUNTY
OK	BECKHAM COUNTY
OK	BRYAN COUNTY
OK	CANADIAN COUNTY
OK	CARTER COUNTY
OK	CHOCTAW COUNTY
OK	CLEVELAND COUNTY
OK	COAL COUNTY
OK	CRAIG COUNTY
OK	CREEK COUNTY
OK	CUSTER COUNTY
OK	DELAWARE COUNTY
OK	GARVIN COUNTY
OK	GRADY COUNTY
OK	HUGHES COUNTY
OK	KAY COUNTY
OK	LATIMER COUNTY
OK	LE FLORE COUNTY
OK	LINCOLN COUNTY
OK	LOVE COUNTY
OK	MCCURTAIN COUNTY
OK	MAYES COUNTY
OK	MUSKOGEE COUNTY
OK	NOBLE COUNTY
OK	OKMULGEE COUNTY
OK	OTTAWA COUNTY
OK	PAYNE COUNTY
OK	PITTSBURG COUNTY
OK	POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
OK	PUSHMATAHA

STATE	COUNTY
	COUNTY
OK	ROGER MILLS COUNTY
OK	SEMINOLE COUNTY
OK	STEPHENS COUNTY
OK	TULSA COUNTY
OK	WAGONER COUNTY
OR	BAKER COUNTY
PA	ALLEGHENY COUNTY
PA	BEAVER COUNTY
PA	BERKS COUNTY
PA	BUCKS COUNTY
PA	CAMBRIA COUNTY
PA	MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PA	PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
PA	PIKE COUNTY
PA	VENANGO COUNTY
PA	WARREN COUNTY
PA	WASHINGTON COUNTY
PA	WESTMORELAND COUNTY
RI	BRISTOL COUNTY
RI	KENT COUNTY
RI	NEWPORT COUNTY
RI	PROVIDENCE COUNTY
RI	WASHINGTON COUNTY
SC	CHARLESTON COUNTY
SC	CLARENDON COUNTY
SC	FAIRFIELD COUNTY
SC	FLORENCE COUNTY
SC	MARION COUNTY
SC	NEWBERRY COUNTY
SC	ORANGEBURG COUNTY
SC	RICHLAND COUNTY
SD	LYMAN COUNTY
SD	MCCOOK COUNTY
TX	ANDERSON COUNTY
TX	ANGELINA COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
TX	ARANSAS COUNTY
TX	ATASCOSA COUNTY
TX	AUSTIN COUNTY
TX	BANDERA COUNTY
TX	BASTROP COUNTY
TX	BEE COUNTY
TX	BELL COUNTY
TX	BEXAR COUNTY
TX	BLANCO COUNTY
TX	BOSQUE COUNTY
TX	BRAZORIA COUNTY
TX	BRAZOS COUNTY
TX	BROOKS COUNTY
TX	BROWN COUNTY
TX	BURLESON COUNTY
TX	BURNET COUNTY
TX	CALDWELL COUNTY
TX	CALHOUN COUNTY
TX	CAMERON COUNTY
TX	CAMP COUNTY
TX	CASS COUNTY
TX	CHAMBERS COUNTY
TX	CHEROKEE COUNTY
TX	CHILDRESS COUNTY
TX	CLAY COUNTY
TX	COLEMAN COUNTY
TX	COLLIN COUNTY
TX	COLORADO COUNTY
TX	COMAL COUNTY
TX	COMANCHE COUNTY
TX	COOKE COUNTY
TX	CORYELL COUNTY
TX	DALLAS COUNTY
TX	DEAF SMITH COUNTY
TX	DENTON COUNTY
TX	DEWITT COUNTY
TX	DIMMIT COUNTY
TX	DUVAL COUNTY
TX	EASTLAND COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
TX	ECTOR COUNTY
TX	ELLIS COUNTY
TX	EL PASO COUNTY
TX	ERATH COUNTY
TX	FALLS COUNTY
TX	FANNIN COUNTY
TX	FAYETTE COUNTY
TX	FLOYD COUNTY
TX	FORT BEND COUNTY
TX	FRANKLIN COUNTY
TX	FREESTONE COUNTY
TX	FRIO COUNTY
TX	GALVESTON COUNTY
TX	GILLESPIE COUNTY
TX	GOLIAD COUNTY
TX	GONZALES COUNTY
TX	GRAY COUNTY
TX	GRAYSON COUNTY
TX	GREGG COUNTY
TX	GRIMES COUNTY
TX	GUADALUPE COUNTY
TX	HALE COUNTY
TX	HARDEMAN COUNTY
TX	HARDIN COUNTY
TX	HARRIS COUNTY
TX	HARRISON COUNTY
TX	HAYS COUNTY
TX	HIDALGO COUNTY
TX	HILL COUNTY
TX	HOOD COUNTY
TX	HOPKINS COUNTY
TX	HOWARD COUNTY
TX	HUNT COUNTY
TX	HUTCHINSON COUNTY
TX	JACKSON COUNTY
TX	JASPER COUNTY
TX	JEFFERSON COUNTY
TX	JIM WELLS COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
TX	JOHNSON COUNTY
TX	JONES COUNTY
TX	KARNES COUNTY
TX	KAUFMAN COUNTY
TX	KENDALL COUNTY
TX	KLEBERG COUNTY
TX	LAMAR COUNTY
TX	LAMPASAS COUNTY
TX	LA SALLE COUNTY
TX	LAVACA COUNTY
TX	LEE COUNTY
TX	LIBERTY COUNTY
TX	LIVE OAK COUNTY
TX	LLANO COUNTY
TX	LUBBOCK COUNTY
TX	MCLENNAN COUNTY
TX	MADISON COUNTY
TX	MARION COUNTY
TX	MATAGORDA COUNTY
TX	MAVERICK COUNTY
TX	MEDINA COUNTY
TX	MIDLAND COUNTY
TX	MILAM COUNTY
TX	MITCHELL COUNTY
TX	MONTAGUE COUNTY
TX	MONTGOMERY COUNTY
TX	NACOGDOCHES COUNTY
TX	NAVARRO COUNTY
TX	NOLAN COUNTY
TX	NUECES COUNTY
TX	ORANGE COUNTY
TX	PALO PINTO COUNTY
TX	PANOLA COUNTY
TX	PARKER COUNTY
TX	PECOS COUNTY
TX	POLK COUNTY
TX	POTTER COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
TX	RAINS COUNTY
TX	RANDALL COUNTY
TX	REAGAN COUNTY
TX	REFUGIO COUNTY
TX	ROBERTSON COUNTY
TX	ROCKWALL COUNTY
TX	RUNNELS COUNTY
TX	RUSK COUNTY
TX	SAN JACINTO COUNTY
TX	SAN PATRICIO COUNTY
TX	SCURRY COUNTY
TX	SMITH COUNTY
TX	STARR COUNTY
TX	TARRANT COUNTY
TX	TAYLOR COUNTY
TX	TITUS COUNTY
TX	TOM GREEN COUNTY
TX	TRAVIS COUNTY
TX	TYLER COUNTY
TX	UVALDE COUNTY
TX	VAL VERDE COUNTY
TX	VAN ZANDT COUNTY
TX	VICTORIA COUNTY
TX	WALKER COUNTY
TX	WALLER COUNTY
TX	WARD COUNTY
TX	WASHINGTON COUNTY
TX	WEBB COUNTY
TX	WHARTON COUNTY
TX	WICHITA COUNTY
TX	WILBARGER COUNTY
TX	WILLACY COUNTY
TX	WILLIAMSON COUNTY
TX	WILSON COUNTY
TX	WISE COUNTY
TX	WOOD COUNTY
TX	ZAPATA COUNTY

STATE	COUNTY
TX	ZAVALA COUNTY
WA	SAN JUAN COUNTY
WA	YAKIMA COUNTY
WV	BOONE COUNTY
WV	FAYETTE COUNTY
WV	JACKSON COUNTY
WV	MASON COUNTY
WV	MERCER COUNTY
WV	RALEIGH COUNTY
WV	ROANE COUNTY
WV	SUMMERS COUNTY
WI	MENOMINEE COUNTY
PR	AGUADA MUNICIPIO
PR	AGUAS BUENAS MUNICIPIO
PR	ANASCO MUNICIPIO
PR	ARECIBO MUNICIPIO
PR	BARCELONETA MUNICIPIO
PR	BARRANQUITAS MUNICIPIO
PR	BAYAMON MUNICIPIO
PR	CATANO MUNICIPIO
PR	CIALES MUNICIPIO
PR	COMERIO MUNICIPIO
PR	COROZAL MUNICIPIO
PR	CULEBRA MUNICIPIO
PR	DORADO MUNICIPIO
PR	FLORIDA MUNICIPIO
PR	GUAYANILLA MUNICIPIO
PR	GUAYNABO MUNICIPIO
PR	HATILLO MUNICIPIO
PR	HORMIGUEROS MUNICIPIO
PR	HUMACAO MUNICIPIO
PR	ISABELA MUNICIPIO
PR	JAYUYA MUNICIPIO
PR	JUANA DIAZ MUNICIPIO
PR	JUNCOS MUNICIPIO

STATE	COUNTY
PR	LARES MUNICIPIO
PR	LAS MARIAS MUNICIPIO
PR	LAS PIEDRAS MUNICIPIO
PR	MARICAO MUNICIPIO
PR	MOCA MUNICIPIO
PR	MOROVIS MUNICIPIO
PR	NAGUABO MUNICIPIO

STATE	COUNTY
PR	NARANJITO MUNICIPIO
PR	PONCE MUNICIPIO
PR	RINCON MUNICIPIO
PR	SABANA GRANDE MUNICIPIO
PR	SALINAS MUNICIPIO
PR	SAN GERMAN MUNICIPIO
PR	SAN JUAN MUNICIPIO

STATE	COUNTY
PR	SAN SEBASTIAN MUNICIPIO
PR	SANTA ISABEL MUNICIPIO
PR	TOA ALTA MUNICIPIO
PR	TOA BAJA MUNICIPIO
PR	VEGA ALTA MUNICIPIO
PR	VEGA BAJA MUNICIPIO
PR	YAUCO MUNICIPIO