

**BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	
Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support	WC Docket No. 09-197
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization	WC Docket No. 11-42
ABC Telcom, Inc.	

**ABC Telcom, Inc. COMPLIANCE PLAN**

ABC Telcom, Inc. (“ABC Telcom” or the “Company”),<sup>1</sup> through its undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully submits and requests expeditious treatment of its Compliance Plan outlining the measures it will take to implement the conditions imposed by the Commission in its *Lifeline Reform Order*.<sup>2</sup>

The Company commends the Commission’s commitment to a nationwide communications system that promotes the safety and welfare of all Americans, including

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<sup>1</sup> The Company hereby also reports its corporate and trade names, identifiers, and its holding company, operating companies and affiliates as: homefone (trade name). The Company does not have a holding or operating company.

<sup>2</sup> See *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Report And Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 12-11 (Feb. 6, 2012) (“*Lifeline Reform Order*”). The Company herein submits the information required by the Compliance Plan Public Notice. See *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance for the Submission of Compliance Plans Pursuant to the Lifeline Reform Order*, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42, Public Notice, DA 12-314 (rel. Feb. 29, 2012).

Lifeline customers. The Company will comply with 911 requirements as described below and it is submitting this Compliance Plan in order to qualify for blanket forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) of the Communications Act and participate as an eligible telecommunications carrier (“ETC”) in the Lifeline program.<sup>3</sup>

The Company will comply fully with all conditions set forth in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, as well as with the Commission’s Lifeline rules and policies more generally.<sup>4</sup> This Compliance Plan describes the specific measures that the Company intends to implement to achieve these objectives. Specifically, this Compliance Plan: (1) describes the specific measures that the Company will take to implement the obligations contained in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, including the procedures the Company follows in enrolling a subscriber in Lifeline and submitting for reimbursement for that subscriber from the Low-Income Fund, materials related to initial and ongoing certifications and sample marketing materials; and (2) provides a detailed description of how the Company

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<sup>3</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 368. Although the Company qualifies for and seeks to avail itself of the Commission’s grant of forbearance from the facilities requirement of section 214(e)(1)(A) for purposes of the federal Lifeline program, the Company reserves the right to demonstrate to a state public utilities commission that it provides service using its own facilities in a state for purposes of state universal service funding under state program rules and requirements. The Company will follow the requirements of the Commission’s Lifeline rules and this Compliance Plan in all states in which it provides Lifeline service and receives reimbursements from the federal Low-Income Fund, including in any state where the public utilities commission determines that ABC Telecom provides service using its own facilities for purposes of a state universal service program.

<sup>4</sup> In addition, this Compliance Plan is consistent with the compliance plan filed by Global Connection Inc. of America. See Global Connection of America Inc. Compliance Plan, WC Docket Nos. 09-197, 11-42 (Apr. 30, 2012). The Global Connection compliance plan was approved on May 25, 2012. See Public Notice, DA 12-828.

offers Lifeline services, the geographic areas in which it offers services, and a detailed description of the Company's Lifeline service plan offerings.

### **ACCESS TO 911 AND E911 SERVICES**<sup>5</sup>

Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, forbearance is conditioned upon the Company: (1) providing its Lifeline subscribers with 911 and E911 access, regardless of activation status and availability of minutes; and (2) providing its Lifeline subscribers with E911-compliant handsets and replacing, at no additional charge to the subscriber, noncompliant handsets of Lifeline-eligible subscribers who obtain Lifeline-supported services.<sup>6</sup> The Company complied with these conditions before the effective date of the *Lifeline Reform Order*.

The Company will provide its Lifeline customers with access to 911 and E911 services immediately upon activation of service. The Commission and consumers are hereby assured that all Company customers will have available access to emergency calling services at the time that Lifeline service is initiated, and that such 911 and E911 access will be available from Company handsets, even if the wireless account associated with the handset has no minutes remaining.

The Company's existing practices currently provide access to 911 and E911 services for all customers. The Company uses Sprint as its underlying network provider/carrier for its wireless service<sup>7</sup> and AT&T as its underlying network provider/carrier for its wireline service. Sprint and AT&T route 911 calls from the

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<sup>5</sup> See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

<sup>6</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 373.

<sup>7</sup> ABC Telcom purchases wireless services from Reunion Communications, Inc. and kajeet, Inc., which, in turn, purchase services from Sprint on a wholesale basis.

Company's customers in the same manner as 911 calls from Sprint's or AT&T's own retail customers. To the extent that Sprint or AT&T is certified in a given PSAP territory, this 911 capability will function the same for the Company. The Company also currently enables 911 emergency calling services for all properly activated handsets regardless of whether the account associated with the handset is active or suspended. Finally, the Company will transmit all 911 calls initiated from any of its handsets even if the wireless account associated with the handset has no remaining minutes.

**E911-Compliant Handsets.** The Company will ensure that all handsets used in connection with the wireless Lifeline service offering are E911-compliant. In point of fact, the Company's wireless phones have always been and will continue to be 911 and E911-compliant. The Company uses phones from Reunion Wireless Services, LLC that have been through a stringent certification process with Sprint, which ensures that the handset models used meet all 911 and E911 requirements. As a result, any new customer that qualifies for and enrolls in the wireless Lifeline program is assured of receiving a 911/E911-compliant handset free of charge.

### **COMPLIANCE PLAN**

#### **I. PROCEDURES TO ENROLL A SUBSCRIBER IN LIFELINE<sup>8</sup>**

##### **A. Policy**

The Company complies with the uniform eligibility criteria established in new section 54.409 of the Commission's rules, as well as any additional certification and verification requirements for Lifeline eligibility in states where the Company is designated as an ETC.

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<sup>8</sup> See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

Therefore, all subscribers will be required to demonstrate eligibility based at least on: (1) household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of that size; or (2) the household's participation in one of the federal assistance programs listed in new sections 54.409(a)(2) or 54.409(a)(3) of the Commission's rules. In addition, through the certification requirements described below, the Company will confirm that the subscriber is not already receiving a Lifeline service and no one else in the subscriber's household is subscribed to a Lifeline service.

**B. Eligibility Determination**

ABC Telcom currently provides wireline and wireless Lifeline services to eligible customers. To enroll new wireless customers, ABC Telcom's employees or agents ("Company personnel") will set up near busy retail stores or social service offices and solicit new subscribers. To the extent that ABC Telcom uses paper application forms, Company personnel will explain the Lifeline government assistance program and the ABC Telcom services to potential new subscribers, as well as the qualifications for enrollment. Company personnel will ask each customer whether the customer is currently enrolled in a qualifying government assistance program, and whether the customer or any member of the customer's household are currently receiving Lifeline service.

If the customer's answers indicate that he or she is qualified for Lifeline, then the customer may complete an application which includes an application/certification form. The Company personnel that enrolls the customer signs the application/certification form certifying that the representative or agent verified the customer's government-issued photo identification and proof of eligibility as described in detail below. Completed

application/certification forms are submitted to the Company by the Company personnel and ABC Telcom enters the data into the Company's system after checking for address duplications. The Company then submits to Reunion Communications bulk orders to provision wireless service to new subscribers.

Wireless Electronic Enrollment. ABC Telcom is working with CGM, LLC to implement an electronic enrollment process, which will use laptops and tablets to complete enrollment in real-time. The electronic order process will provide the Company the opportunity to perform the database checks described below in real-time during the enrollment process. Company personnel must log in to the software so that the customer enrollment is automatically tagged to a particular representative. The Company personnel must sign his or her agreement not to take part in any fraud with respect to Lifeline enrollment. The representative then advances through the electronic windows with the prospective customer to provide disclosures, collect information and elicit certifications as detailed below. The customer signs the electronic application and the information collected is sent for several database checks, including an address verification (Melissa database), a geographic footprint match to the ETC's authorization to provide Lifeline service in the area, an internal duplicate check and a state database eligibility check (if available).

The electronic enrollment process includes the ability to scan customers' government-issued identification, proof of residence (if necessary because the address cannot be verified) and proof of eligibility. The proof will only be retained for a short period of time for verification and then deleted. All transfers of information and scans collected electronically are transmitted in encrypted form. When the checks described

herein are completed in real-time, approved customers are enrolled and receive a handset to be activated as discussed below.

Wireline Enrollment. Potential new subscribers to ABC Telcom’s landline service generally apply in person at one of approximately one hundred retail stores in Louisiana, which are designated as ABC Telcom “dealers.” Company personnel explain the Lifeline government assistance program and the ABC Telcom services to potential new subscribers, as well as the qualifications for enrollment. Company personnel asks each customer whether the customer is currently enrolled in a qualifying government assistance program, and whether the customer or any member of the customer’s household are currently receiving Lifeline service.

If the customer’s answers indicate that he or she is qualified for Lifeline, then the customer may complete an application which includes an application/certification form. The Company personnel that enrolls the customer signs the application/certification form certifying that the representative or agent verified the customer’s government-issued photo identification and proof of eligibility as described in detail below. Completed application/certification forms are submitted to the Company by the Company personnel and ABC Telcom enters the data into the Company’s system after checking for address duplications. The Company then submits an order to AT&T to provision wireline service to the new subscriber.

If the Company cannot determine a prospective subscriber’s eligibility for Lifeline by accessing income databases or program eligibility databases, the Company personnel will review documentation establishing eligibility pursuant to the Lifeline rules.<sup>9</sup> All

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<sup>9</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 100; section 54.410(b)(1)(i)(B), 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B).

personnel who interact with current or prospective customers will be trained to assist Lifeline applicants in determining whether they are eligible to participate based on the federal and state-specific income-based and/or program-based criteria. These personnel will be trained to answer questions about Lifeline eligibility, and will review required documentation to determine whether it satisfies the *Lifeline Reform Order* and state-specific eligibility requirements using state-specific checklists.

Proof of Eligibility. Company personnel will be trained on acceptable documentation required to establish income-based and program-based eligibility.<sup>10</sup> Acceptable documentation of program eligibility includes: (1) the current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (2) a notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; (3) program participation documents (*e.g.*, the consumer's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) electronic benefit transfer card or Medicaid participation card (or copy thereof)); or (4) another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.<sup>11</sup>

Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; a Social Security statement of benefits; a Veterans Administration statement of benefits; a retirement/pension statement of benefits; an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in

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<sup>10</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 101. See also USAC Guidance available at <http://www.usac.org/li/telecom-carriers/step06/default.aspx>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* and section 54.410(c)(1)(i)(B).

General Assistance; or a divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time.<sup>12</sup>

Company personnel will examine this documentation for each Lifeline applicant, and will record the type of documentation used to satisfy the income- or program-based criteria by checking the appropriate box on the application form.<sup>13</sup> The Company will not retain a copy of this documentation, except where state rules require such retention.<sup>14</sup> Customers that do not apply for Lifeline service other than in person (e.g., online or over the phone) must send proof of income-based eligibility or program participation to ABC Telcom by email or fax. Where the Company personnel conclude that proffered documentation is insufficient to establish such eligibility, the Company will deny the associated application and inform the applicant of the reason for such rejection. In the event that Company personnel cannot ascertain whether documentation of a specific type is sufficient to establish an applicant's eligibility, the matter will be escalated to supervisory personnel.

De-Enrollment for Ineligibility. If the Company has a reasonable basis to believe that one of its Lifeline subscribers no longer meets the eligibility criteria, the Company will notify the subscriber of impending termination in writing and in compliance with any state dispute resolution procedures applicable to Lifeline termination, and give the subscriber 30 days to demonstrate continued eligibility.<sup>15</sup> A demonstration of eligibility

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<sup>12</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; section 54.410.(b)(1)(i)(B).

<sup>13</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; sections 54.410(b)(1)(iii), 54.410(c)(1)(iii).

<sup>14</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶101; sections 54.410(b)(1)(ii), 54.410(c)(1)(ii).

<sup>15</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 143; section 54.405(e)(1).

must comply with the annual verification procedures below and found in new rule section 54.410(f), including the submission of a certification form.

### **C. Subscriber Certifications for Enrollment**

The Company will implement certification policies and procedures that enable consumers to demonstrate their eligibility for Lifeline assistance to Company personnel as detailed in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, together with any additional state certification requirements.<sup>16</sup> The Company shares the Commission's concern about abuse of the Lifeline program and is thus committed to the safeguards stated herein, with the belief that these procedures will prevent the Company's customers from engaging in such abuse of the program, inadvertently or intentionally. Every applicant will be required to complete an application/certification form containing disclosures, and collecting certain information and certifications as discussed below.<sup>17</sup> Applicants that seek to enroll based on income eligibility will be referred to a worksheet showing the Federal Poverty Guidelines by household size.<sup>18</sup> Applicants that do not complete the form in person will be required to return the signed application/certification to the Company by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic transmission. In addition, Company personnel will verbally explain the certifications to consumers when they are enrolling in person or over the phone.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 61; section 54.410(a).

<sup>17</sup> *See* Model Application/Certification Form, included as Exhibit A. *See* Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

<sup>18</sup> *See* Income Eligibility Worksheet, included as Exhibit B.

<sup>19</sup> *See Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 123.

Disclosures. The Company's application and certification forms will include the following disclosures: (1) Lifeline is a federal benefit and willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program; (2) only one Lifeline service is available per household; (3) a household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses; (4) a household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers; (5) violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Commission's rules and will result in the applicant's de-enrollment from the program; and (6) Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and the applicant may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person.<sup>20</sup>

Applications and certification forms will also state that: (1) the service is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, and (3) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program.<sup>21</sup>

In addition, the Company will notify the applicant that the prepaid service must be personally activated by the subscriber and the service will be deactivated and the subscriber de-enrolled if the subscriber does not use the service for 60 days.<sup>22</sup>

Information Collection. The Company also will collect the following information from the applicant in the application/certification form: (1) the applicant's full name; (2) the applicant's full residential address (P.O. Box is not sufficient<sup>23</sup>); (3) whether the

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<sup>20</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 121; section 54.410(d)(1).

<sup>21</sup> See section 54.405(c).

<sup>22</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257.

<sup>23</sup> See *id.*, ¶ 87.

applicant's residential address is permanent or temporary; (4) the applicant's billing address, if different from the applicant's residential address; (5) the applicant's date of birth; (6) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number (or the applicant's Tribal identification number, if the subscriber is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a Social Security number); (7) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the program-based criteria, the name of the qualifying assistance program from which the applicant, his or her dependents, or his or her household receives benefits; and (8) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline under the income-based criterion, the number of individuals in his or her household.<sup>24</sup>

Applicant Certification. Consistent with new rule section 54.410(d)(3), the Company will require the applicant to certify, under penalty of perjury, in writing or by electronic signature or interactive voice response recording,<sup>25</sup> the following: (1) the applicant meets the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline; (2) the applicant will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason he or she no longer satisfies the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if the applicant no longer meets the income-based or program-based criteria for receiving Lifeline support, the applicant is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of the applicant's household is receiving a Lifeline benefit; (3) if the applicant is seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, he or she lives on Tribal lands; (4) if the applicant moves to a new address, he or she will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days; (5) if the applicant provided a temporary residential address to the Company, the applicant will be required to verify his or her

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<sup>24</sup> See section 54.410(d)(2).

<sup>25</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*. ¶¶ 168-69; section 54.419.

temporary residential address every 90 days; (6) the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the applicant's household is not already receiving a Lifeline service; (7) the information contained in the applicant's certification form is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge; (8) the applicant acknowledges that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law; and (9) the applicant acknowledges that the applicant may be required to re-certify his or her continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and the applicant's failure to re-certify as to the applicant's continued eligibility will result in de-enrollment and the termination of the applicant's Lifeline benefits pursuant to the de-enrollment policy included below and in the Commission's rules.

In addition, the applicant will be required to authorize the Company to access any records required to verify the applicant's statements on the application/certification form and to confirm the applicant's eligibility for the Company Lifeline credit. The applicant must also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Company Lifeline credit program, including to USAC to be used in a Lifeline program database.<sup>26</sup>

#### **D. Annual Verification Procedures**

The Company will annually re-certify all subscribers by querying the appropriate eligibility databases or obtaining a signed certification from each subscriber consistent with the certification requirements above and new section 54.410(d) of the Commission's

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<sup>26</sup> See Section 54.404(b)(9). The application/certification form will also describe the information that will be transmitted, that the information is being transmitted to USAC to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline program and that failure to provide consent will result in the applicant being denied the Lifeline service.

rules. This certification will include a confirmation that the applicant's household will receive only one Lifeline service and, to the best of the subscriber's knowledge, the subscriber's household is receiving no more than one Lifeline service.<sup>27</sup> Further, the verification materials will inform the subscriber that he or she is being contacted to re-certify his or her continuing eligibility for Lifeline and if the subscriber fails to respond, he or she will be de-enrolled in the program.<sup>28</sup>

2012 Verification. The Company will re-certify the eligibility of each of its existing subscribers as of June 1, 2012 on a rolling basis by the end of 2012 and report the results to USAC by January 31, 2013.<sup>29</sup> The Company will contact its subscribers via text message to their Lifeline supported telephone, or by mail, phone, email or other Internet communication. The notice will explain the actions the customer must take to retain Lifeline benefits, when Lifeline benefits may be terminated, and how to contact the Company.

Verification De-Enrollment. The Company will de-enroll subscribers that do not respond to the annual verification or fail to provide the required certification.<sup>30</sup> The Company will give subscribers 30 days to respond to the annual verification inquiry. If the subscriber does not respond, the Company will send a separate written notice explaining that failure to respond within 30 days will result in the subscriber's de-enrollment from the Lifeline program. If the subscriber does not respond within 30 days, the Company will de-enroll the subscriber within five business days.

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<sup>27</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 120.

<sup>28</sup> See *id.*, ¶ 145.

<sup>29</sup> See *id.*, ¶ 130.

<sup>30</sup> See *id.*, ¶ 142; section 54.54.405(e)(4).

### **E. Activation and Non-Usage**

The Company will not consider a prepaid wireless subscriber activated, and will not seek reimbursement for Lifeline for that subscriber, until the subscriber activates the Company's prepaid service by completing an outbound call at the time of enrollment.<sup>31</sup> Customers are provided a handset that is not fully activated. The customer account and service are activated by the customer placing a call using the phone.

In addition, after service activation, the Company will provide a de-enrollment notice to subscribers that have not used their service for 60 days. After 30 days of non-use, the Company will provide notice to the subscriber that failure to use the Lifeline service within a 30-day notice period will result in de-enrollment.<sup>32</sup> Subscribers can "use" the service by: (1) completing an outbound call; (2) purchasing minutes from the Company to add to the subscriber's plan; (3) answering an incoming call from a party other than the Company; or (4) responding to a direct contact from the Company and confirming that the subscriber wants to continue receiving the service.<sup>33</sup>

If the subscriber does not respond to the notice, the subscriber will be de-enrolled and the Company will not request further Lifeline reimbursement for the subscriber. The Company will report annually to the Commission the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month.<sup>34</sup>

Although ABC Telcom's wireline service offerings are prepaid, the Company does assess and collect a monthly fee from each wireline subscriber. Each customer is

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<sup>31</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.407(c)(1).

<sup>32</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

<sup>33</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 261; section 54.407(c)(2).

<sup>34</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

required to prepay for the Lifeline service offering chosen each month or the service is disconnected. Customers often make payments in person at ABC Telcom dealer locations. Therefore, ABC Telcom's wireline customers have a regular billing relationship with the Company and the activation and non-usage requirements do not apply.<sup>35</sup>

**F. Additional Measures to Prevent Waste, Fraud and Abuse**

To supplement its verification and certification procedures, and to better ensure that customers understand the Lifeline service restrictions with respect to duplicates, the Company will implement measures and procedures to prevent duplicate Lifeline benefits being awarded to the same household. These measures entail additional emphasis in written disclosures as well as live due diligence.

In addition to checking the database when it becomes available, Company personnel will emphasize the "one Lifeline phone per household" restriction in their direct sales contacts with potential customers. Training materials will include a discussion of the limitation to one Lifeline phone per household, and the need to ensure that the customer is informed of this restriction. All Company personnel interacting with existing and potential Lifeline customers will undergo training regarding the eligibility and certification requirements in the *Lifeline Reform Order* and this Compliance Plan.

Sales agents are provided with examples of appropriate proof of eligibility and have constant access and the ability to discuss any questions they may have in the field with management in real-time. The Company's enrollment personnel are especially knowledgeable regarding detecting fraud. ABC Telcom uses many techniques, such as

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<sup>35</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 257, 263; section 54.407(c).

direct verification of information with customers or comparing signatures on applications. ABC Telcom conducts random screening of enrollments by agents or representatives. All Company personnel are made aware that ABC Telcom has a zero tolerance for fraud and that if fraud is discovered, it will immediately be reported to the appropriate agencies and ABC Telcom will file any necessary criminal charges against the suspected employee.

Database. When the National Lifeline Accountability Database (“National Database”) becomes available, the Company will comply with the requirements of new rule section 54.404. The Company will query the National Database to determine whether a prospective subscriber is currently receiving a Lifeline service from another ETC and whether anyone else living at the prospective subscriber’s residential address is currently receiving Lifeline service.<sup>36</sup>

One-Per-Household. The Company will implement the requirements of the *Lifeline Reform Order* to ensure that it provides only one Lifeline benefit per household<sup>37</sup> through the use of its application and certification forms discussed above, internal

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<sup>36</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 203. The Company will also transmit to the National Database the information required for each new and existing Lifeline subscriber. See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 189-195; section 54.404(b)(6). Further, the Company will update each subscriber’s information in the National Database within ten business days of any change, except for de-enrollment, which will be transmitted within one business day. See section 54.404(b)(8),(10).

<sup>37</sup> A “household” is any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An “economic unit” consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him/her, both people shall be considered part of the same household. Children under the age of eighteen living with their parents or guardians are considered to be part of the same household as their parents or guardians. See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 74; section 54.400(h).

database checks and its marketing materials discussed below. Upon receiving an application for the Company's Lifeline service, the Company will search its own internal records to ensure that it does not already provide Lifeline-supported service to someone at the same residential address.<sup>38</sup> If so, and the applicant lives at an address with multiple households, the Company will require the applicant to complete and submit the written USAC document containing the following: (1) an explanation of the Commission's one-per-household rule; (2) a check box that an applicant can mark to indicate that he or she lives at an address occupied by multiple households; (3) a space for the applicant to certify that he or she shares an address with other adults who do not contribute income to the applicant's household and share in the household's expenses or benefit from the applicant's income, pursuant to the Commission's definition; and (4) the penalty for a consumer's failure to make the required one-per-household certification (*i.e.*, de-enrollment).<sup>39</sup> Further, if a subscriber provides a temporary address on his or her application/certification form collected as described above, the Company will verify with the subscriber every 90 days that the subscriber continues to rely on that address.<sup>40</sup>

Finally, Company personnel will inform each Lifeline applicant that he or she may be receiving Lifeline support under another name, and facilitate the applicant's understanding of what constitutes "Lifeline-supported services," and ability to determine whether he or she is already benefiting from Lifeline support, by informing the consumer that all Lifeline services may not be currently marketed under the name Lifeline.

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<sup>38</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 78.

<sup>39</sup> *Id.* The USAC worksheet is available at <http://www.usac.org/li/tools/news/default.aspx#582>.

<sup>40</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 89.

Marketing Materials. Within the deadline provided in the *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Company will include the following information regarding its Lifeline service on all marketing materials describing the service: (1) it is a Lifeline service, (2) Lifeline is a government assistance program, (3) the service is non-transferable, (4) only eligible consumers may enroll in the program, (5) the program is limited to one discount per household; (6) that documentation is necessary for enrollment; (7) ABC Telcom's name (the ETC); and (8) the Company's application/certification form will state that consumers who willfully make a false statement in order to obtain the Lifeline benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.<sup>41</sup> These statements will be included in all print, audio video and web materials (including social networking media) used to describe or enroll customers in the Company's Lifeline service offering, as well as the Company's application forms and certification forms.<sup>42</sup> This specifically includes the Company's website <http://www.abctelcom.com> and outdoor signage.<sup>43</sup> A sample of the Company's marketing materials is included as Exhibit C.

#### **G. Company Reimbursements From the Fund**

To ensure that the Company does not seek reimbursement from the Fund without a subscriber's consent, the Company will certify, as part of each reimbursement request, that it is in compliance with all of the Commission's Lifeline rules and, to the extent

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<sup>41</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 275; section 54.405(c). See also *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Lifeline and Link Up, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training*, WC Docket No. 11-42, WC Docket No. 03-109, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 12-23, Erratum, ¶ 63 (rel. May 16, 2012).

<sup>42</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 275; section 54.405(c).

<sup>43</sup> *Id.*

required, has obtained valid certification and verification forms from each of the subscribers for whom it is seeking reimbursement.<sup>44</sup> Further, the Company will transition the submission of its FCC Forms 497 to the eighth day of each month in order to be reimbursed the same month, and inform USAC, to the extent necessary, to transition its reimbursement process to actual claims rather than projected claims over the course of more than one month.<sup>45</sup> In addition, the Company will keep accurate records as directed by USAC<sup>46</sup> and as required by new section 54.417 of the Commission's rules.

#### **H. Annual Company Certifications**

The Company will submit an annual certification to USAC, signed by a Company officer under penalty of perjury, that the Company: (1) has policies and procedures in place to review consumers' documentation of income- and program-based eligibility and ensure that its Lifeline subscribers are eligible to receive Lifeline services;<sup>47</sup> (2) is in compliance with all federal Lifeline certification procedures;<sup>48</sup> and (3) has obtained a valid certification form for each subscriber for whom the carrier seeks Lifeline reimbursement.<sup>49</sup>

In addition, the Company will provide the results of its annual re-certifications/verifications on an annual basis to the Commission, USAC, the applicable state commission and the relevant Tribal governments (for subscribers residing on Tribal

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<sup>44</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 128; section 54.407(d).

<sup>45</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 302-306.

<sup>46</sup> See section 54.407(e).

<sup>47</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 126; section 54.416(a)(1).

<sup>48</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 127; section 54.416(a)(2).

<sup>49</sup> See section 54.416(a)(3).

lands).<sup>50</sup> Further, as discussed above, the Company will report annually to the Commission the number of subscribers de-enrolled for non-usage by month.<sup>51</sup>

The Company will also annually report to the Commission, USAC, and relevant state commissions and the relevant authority in a U.S. territory or Tribal government as appropriate,<sup>52</sup> the company name, names of the company's holding company, operating companies and affiliates, and any branding (such as a "dba" or brand designation) as well as relevant universal service identifiers for each entity by Study Area Code.<sup>53</sup> The Company will report annually information regarding the terms and conditions of its Lifeline plans for voice telephony service offered specifically for low-income consumers during the previous year, including the number of minutes provided and whether there are additional charges to the consumer for service, including minutes of use and/or toll calls.<sup>54</sup> Finally, the Company will annually provide detailed information regarding service outages in the previous year, the number of complaints received and certification of compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules, as well as a certification that the Company is able to function in emergency situations.<sup>55</sup>

## **I. Cooperation with State and Federal Regulators**

The Company has cooperated and will continue to cooperate with federal and state regulators to prevent waste, fraud and abuse. More specifically, the Company will:

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<sup>50</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 132,148; section 54.416(b).

<sup>51</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 257; section 54.405(e)(3).

<sup>52</sup> See section 54.422(c).

<sup>53</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 296, 390; section 54.422(a).

<sup>54</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 390; section 54.422(b)(5).

<sup>55</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 389; section 54.422(b)(1)-(4).

- Make available state-specific subscriber data, including the names and addresses of Lifeline subscribers, to USAC and to each state public utilities commission where the Company operates for the purpose of determining whether an existing Lifeline subscriber receives Lifeline service from another carrier;<sup>56</sup>
- Assist the Commission, USAC, state commissions, and other ETCs in resolving instances of duplicative enrollment by Lifeline subscribers, including by providing to USAC and/or any state commission, upon request, the necessary information to detect and resolve duplicative Lifeline claims;
- Promptly investigate any notification that it receives from the Commission, USAC, or a state commission to the effect that one of its customers already receives Lifeline services from another carrier; and
- Immediately de-enroll any subscriber whom the Company has a reasonable basis to believe<sup>57</sup> is receiving Lifeline-supported service from another ETC or is no longer eligible – whether or not such information is provided by the Commission, USAC, or a state commission.

## **II. Description of Lifeline Service Offerings<sup>58</sup>**

The Company will offer its Lifeline service in the states where it is designated as an ETC<sup>59</sup> and throughout the coverage area of its underlying provider(s) Sprint (wireless) and AT&T (wireline).

The Company’s wireless Lifeline offering will provide customers with 125 anytime prepaid minutes per month at no charge with rollover. Lifeline customers can purchase additional bundles of minutes in denominations of \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00 and \$30.00 which do not rollover and must be used within 30 days of purchase. Airtime “top-up” minutes are available for purchase at the Company’s retail locations or by calling

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<sup>56</sup> The Company anticipates that the need to provide such information will sunset following the implementation of the national duplicates database.

<sup>57</sup> See section 54.405(e)(1).

<sup>58</sup> See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

<sup>59</sup> The Company is designated as an ETC in Louisiana.

customer service. Text messaging is available at the rate of three texts per airtime minute. Additional information regarding the Company's plans, rates and services can be found on its website <http://www.abctelcom.com>.

In addition to free voice services, Company's wireless Lifeline plan includes custom calling features at no charge, including Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-Way Calling and Voicemail. All plans include domestic long-distance at no extra per minute charge. Calls to 911 emergency services are always free, regardless of service activation or availability of minutes.

The Company's wireline Lifeline offering will offer customers unlimited local calling for \$33.56, which is \$24.31 after the Lifeline discount, per month with a \$34.95 connection fee. Customers can also choose from three packages of additional services: 1) Call Waiting and Caller ID for an additional \$10.00 per month; 2) Call Waiting, Caller ID, Call Return & 3-Way Calling for an additional \$14.00 per month; or 3) Call Waiting, Caller ID, Call Forwarding, Speed Dialing, Call Blocking, Call Return and 3-Way Calling for an additional \$17.00 per month. ABC Telcom's landline customers can purchase 1200 minutes of domestic long distance (contiguous United States) for \$12.00 or they can apply for 1+ long distance at a rate of \$0.10/minute with a \$100.00 deposit and credit check.

### **III. Demonstration of Financial and Technical Capabilities and Certifications Required for ETC Designation<sup>60</sup>**

Financial and Technical Capabilities. Revised Commission rule 54.202(a)(4), 47 C.F.R. 54.202(a)(4), requires carriers petitioning for ETC designation to demonstrate

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<sup>60</sup> See Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

financial and technical capability to comply with the Commission's Lifeline service requirements.<sup>61</sup> The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires that carriers' compliance plan include this demonstration. Among the factors the Commission will consider are: a carrier's prior offering of service to non-Lifeline subscribers, the length of time the carrier has been in business, whether the carrier relies exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement to operate, whether the carrier receives revenues from other sources and whether the carrier has been the subject of an enforcement action or ETC revocation proceeding in any state.

The Company currently offers non-Lifeline wired residential and business phone service and has done so continuously since September, 2000. The Company consequently, has not relied, and will not be relying, exclusively on Lifeline reimbursement for the Company's operating revenues. The Company has access to other financial resources including a substantial cash reserves, and has no debt at this time. The Company has not been subject to enforcement sanctions or ETC revocation proceedings in any state.

Service Requirements Applicable to Company's Support. The Compliance Plan Public Notice requires carriers to include "certifications required under newly amended section 54.202 of the Commission's rules."<sup>62</sup> The Company certifies that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support the Company receives.<sup>63</sup> The Company provides all of the telecommunications service supported by the Lifeline program and will make the services available to all qualified consumers throughout the

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<sup>61</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶¶ 387-388 (revising Commission rule 54.202(a)(4)).

<sup>62</sup> Compliance Plan Public Notice at 3.

<sup>63</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).

states in which it is designated as an ETC. The Company's services include voice telephony services that provide voice grade access to the public switched network or its functional equivalent. Further, the Company's service offerings provide its customers with a set number of minutes of use for local service at no charge to the customer. The Company's current Lifeline offerings include packages in Section II *supra* that can be used for local and domestic toll service.

The Company also will provide access to emergency services provided by local government or public safety officials, including 911 and E911 where available and will comply with any Commission requirements regarding E911-compatible handsets. As discussed above, the Company will comply with the Commission's forbearance grant conditions relating to the provision of 911 and E911 services and handsets.

Finally, the Company will not provide toll limitation service ("TLS") for its wireless service. The Company, like most wireless carriers, does not differentiate domestic long distance toll usage from local usage and all usage is paid for in advance. Pursuant to the *Lifeline Reform Order*, subscribers to such services are not considered to have voluntarily elected to receive TLS.<sup>64</sup>

ABC Telecom provides toll limitation to its wireline Lifeline customers, which allows low-income customers to avoid unexpected toll charges. The Company's wireline Lifeline offerings include unlimited local calling, but no long distance. All customers can purchase 1200 minutes of domestic long distance (contiguous United States) for \$12.00. Customers are not permitted to make long distance calls beyond the minutes prepaid. Therefore, customers cannot be disconnected for failure to pay toll charges, nor

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<sup>64</sup> See *Lifeline Reform Order*, ¶ 230.

are there additional charges for exceeding their minutes because customers are not permitted to exceed their minutes. ABC Telcom does not currently have any 1+ long distance customers, but such customers would be required to make a \$100.00 prepayment against which long distance calls would be debited. The \$100.00 must then be replenished before the customer can make additional 1+ long distance calls. Therefore, the services would be prepaid and customers could not exceed the minutes for which they have prepaid.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

The Company submits that its Compliance Plan fully satisfies the conditions set forth in the Commission's *Lifeline Reform Order*, the Compliance Plan Public Notice and the Lifeline rules. Accordingly, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve its Compliance Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,



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John J. Heitmann  
Joshua T. Guyan  
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP  
3050 K Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
(202) 342-8544

*Counsel to ABC Telcom, Inc.*

June 28, 2012

# **EXHIBIT A**



ABC Telcom, Inc.
Louisiana Wireless Lifeline Service Application and Certification

Mail or fax form completed and signed form to:
PO Box 6047 Metairie LA 70009
Fax 1-800-309-2677 / Customer Service: 1-866-466-3366

One Lifeline service per household disclosures: Lifeline is a government assistance program and willfully making false statements to obtain a Lifeline benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Lifeline benefits are limited to a single line of service per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household may not receive multiple Lifeline discounts. You may apply your Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both and you cannot receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Note that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person, including another eligible low-income consumer. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and potentially prosecution by the United States Government.

I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above and that, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service benefit.

Customer eligibility certification: I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs (check one):

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
Medicaid (not Medicare)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA)
Tribally Administered TANF (TATNF)
Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards) (Tribal)

Tribal eligibility: I hereby certify that I reside on Federally-recognized Tribal lands.

Customer Application Information:

First Name: Middle Name: Last Name:

Date of Birth: Month: Day: Year:

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (or Tribal ID Number):

If Qualifying for Lifeline by Income, number of Individuals in Household:

Home Telephone Number (if available):

Residential Address (P.O. Box NOT sufficient)

Number: Apt: Street City

State: Zip Code:

Address is (choose one): Permanent Temporary

Billing Address (if different from Residential Address) (P.O. Box IS sufficient)

Number: Apt: Street City

State: Zip Code:

Activation and usage requirement disclosures: This service is a prepaid service and you must personally activate it by making or receiving a call. To keep your account active, you must use your Lifeline service at least once during any 60 day period by completing an outbound call, purchasing additional minutes from Company, answering an in-bound call from someone other

than Company, or by responding to a direct contact from Company confirming that you want to continue receiving Lifeline service from Company. If your service goes unused for 60 days, you will no longer be eligible for Lifeline

**Authorizations:**

- I hereby authorize the Company to access any records required to verify my statements on this form and to confirm my eligibility for the Lifeline program. I also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Lifeline program (e.g., name, telephone number and address), including to the Universal Service Administrative Company, to be used in a Lifeline database and to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline Program. Failure to consent will result in denial of service.

**Additional certifications:** I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that (check each box):

- I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline service and have provided documentation of eligibility if required
- I will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria, I begin receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit. I understand that I may be subject to penalties if I fail to follow this requirement
- I am not listed as a dependent on another person's tax return (unless over the age of 60)
- The address listed below is my primary residence, not a second home or business
- If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days
- If I provided a temporary residential address to the Company, I will verify my temporary residential address every 90 days
- I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law
- I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility within 30 days will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits
- The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>For Agent Use Only (check the appropriate boxes for the proof of eligibility viewed and provide information requested; do not copy or retain documentation):</b></p>					
<p><b>Documents Acceptable Proof for Income-Eligibility (check 1):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Social Security statement of benefits,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Veterans Administration statement of benefits,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A retirement/pension statement of benefits,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, or</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time.</li> </ul>	<p><b>List B - Choose 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Program participation card/document</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prior year's statement of benefits</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Notice letter of participation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other official document evidencing participation _____</li> </ul> <p>_____</p> <p>Last 4 digits of Document from List B _____</p> <p>Date of Proof Document: ____/____/____</p> <p>Expiration Date of Proof Document: ____/____/____</p>				
<p><b>Documents Acceptable Proof for Program-Eligibility (choose 1 from each list A and B below):</b></p>					
<p><b>List A - Choose 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> National School Lunch Program's free lunch program</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Administered TANF (TATNF)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)</li> </ul>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Dealer Code</th> <th style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">Dealer Signature</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Dealer Code	Dealer Signature		
Dealer Code	Dealer Signature				



**ABC Telcom, Inc.**

**Louisiana Wireline Lifeline Service Certification**

Mail or fax form completed and signed form to:

PO Box 6047 Metairie LA 70009

Fax 1-800-309-2677 / Customer Service: 1-866-466-3366

**One Lifeline service per household disclosures:** Lifeline is a government assistance program and willfully making false statements to obtain a Lifeline benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Lifeline benefits are limited to a single line of service per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household may not receive multiple Lifeline discounts. You may apply your Lifeline discount to either one landline or one wireless number, but you cannot have the discount on both and you cannot receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Note that not all Lifeline services are currently marketed under the name Lifeline. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit and you may not transfer your benefit to any other person, including another eligible low-income consumer. Violation of the one-per-household limitation constitutes a violation of the Federal Communications Commission's rules and will result in your de-enrollment from the program, and potentially prosecution by the United States Government.

**I hereby certify that I have read and understood the disclosures listed above and that, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not already receiving a Lifeline service benefit.**

**Customer eligibility certification:** I hereby certify that I participate in at least one of the following programs (check one):

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Medicaid (not Medicare)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA)
- Tribally Administered TANF (TATNF)
- Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards) (Tribal)

**Tribal eligibility:**  I hereby certify that I reside on Federally-recognized Tribal lands.

**Customer Application Information:**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: Month: \_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Four Digits of Social Security Number (or Tribal ID Number): \_\_\_\_\_

If Qualifying for Lifeline by Income, number of Individuals in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address (P.O. Box NOT sufficient)

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Address is (choose one):  Permanent  Temporary

Billing Address (if different from Residential Address) (P.O. Box IS sufficient)

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorizations:**

- I hereby authorize the Company to access any records required to verify my statements on this form and to confirm my eligibility for the Lifeline program. I also authorize the Company to release any records required for the administration of the Lifeline program (e.g., name, telephone number and address), including to the Universal Service Administrative Company, to be used in a Lifeline database and to ensure the proper administration of the Lifeline Program. Failure to consent will result in denial of service.

**Additional certifications:** I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that (check each box):

- I meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria for receiving Lifeline service and have provided documentation of eligibility if required
- I will notify the Company within 30 days if for any reason I no longer satisfy the criteria for receiving Lifeline including, as relevant, if I no longer meet the income-based or program-based eligibility criteria, I begin receiving more than one Lifeline benefit, or another member of my household is receiving a Lifeline benefit. I understand that I may be subject to penalties if I fail to follow this requirement
- I am not listed as a dependent on another person's tax return (unless over the age of 60)
- The address listed below is my primary residence, not a second home or business
- If I move to a new address, I will provide that new address to the Company within 30 days
- If I provided a temporary residential address to the Company, I will verify my temporary residential address every 90 days
- I acknowledge that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law
- I acknowledge that I may be required to re-certify my continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and my failure to re-certify as to my continued eligibility within 30 days will result in de-enrollment and the termination of my Lifeline benefits
- The information contained in this certification form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**For Agent Use Only (check the appropriate boxes for the proof of eligibility viewed and provide information requested; do not copy or retain documentation):**

**Documents Acceptable Proof for Income-Eligibility (check 1):**

- The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return,
- Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub,
- A Social Security statement of benefits,
- A Veterans Administration statement of benefits,
- A retirement/pension statement of benefits,
- An Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits,
- Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, or
- A divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time.

**List B - Choose 1:**

- Program participation card/document
- Prior year's statement of benefits
- Notice letter of participation
- Other official document evidencing participation \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of Document from List B \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Proof Document: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date of Proof Document: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Documents Acceptable Proof for Program-Eligibility (choose 1 from each list A and B below):**

**List A - Choose 1**

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Section 8 Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA)
- Tribally Administered TANF (TATNF)
- Head Start (meeting income qualifying standards)

Dealer Code	Dealer Signature

# **EXHIBIT B**

 **Lifeline Service Application**  
**Income Eligibility Worksheet**

Individuals in all states are able to enroll in the Lifeline program by demonstrating that their household's annual income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. This table should be used to determine whether a Lifeline applicant is eligible for Lifeline service based on the number of individuals in the applicant's household and the applicant's household annual income:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME LEVEL
1	\$15,080
2	\$20,426
3	\$25,772
4	\$31,118
5	\$36,464
6	\$41,810
7	\$47,156
8	\$52,502
For each additional person	Add \$5,346

**Applicants must list the number of individuals in the applicant's household on the Lifeline application form.** Applicants seeking to qualify for Lifeline service based on their household income must present one of the following documents in order to prove eligibility:

- the prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return
- current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
- a Social Security statement of benefits
- a Veterans Administration statement of benefits
- a retirement/pension statement of benefits
- an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits
- Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- a divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information for at least three months time

**This is a Lifeline service provided by ABC Telcom, Inc. dba homefone. Lifeline is a government assistance program. Only one Lifeline service is available per household. Households are not permitted to receive multiple Lifeline benefits whether they are from one or multiple companies, wireless or wireline. Proof of eligibility is required for enrollment and only eligible customers may enroll in Lifeline service. Consumers who willingly make false statements to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. Lifeline customers may not transfer their benefits to any other person.**

# **EXHIBIT C**



## ***Government subsidized wireless phone service***

### **Service includes:**

- o 125 minutes per month allowing calls within the 48 continental States; unused minutes will roll over from month-to-month and "fresh" minutes will be automatically loaded to the currently available minutes of the account of each customer on a monthly basis
- o Access to emergency services, operator services, directory assistance
- o Monthly rate: \$9.25 less \$9.25 Lifeline Subsidy
- o Caller ID; Call Waiting; Call Forwarding; 3-Way Calling
- o Ability to purchase additional minutes

### **Subsidy:**

- o Subsidized service is Lifeline supported and only available to eligible customers. Lifeline is a government assistance program. To qualify customers
  - a. must be enrolled in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Assistance to Needy Families /AFDC (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assist. (Section 8), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), National School Free Lunch (NSL), or qualify under the Income Based Eligibility according to state means test (i.e. maximum yearly income \$14,702, \$19,859, \$25,016 or \$30,173 for number of people in household of 1, 2, 3 or 4 respectively) Documentation is necessary for enrollment
  - b. must be head of my household & at least 18 years of age
  - c. must certify that neither they nor anyone in the household is now receiving a Lifeline subsidy at the address
  - d. must certify that in the future if their total household income exceeds 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines or they no longer are eligible to receive benefits from at least one of the public assistance programs listed above or if they change address, then they will notify *homefone* within thirty (30) days
  - e. must certify that they understand that Lifeline is only available for one land line or wireless phone per household & is non-transferable
- o Service must be used at least once in every 60 days or service will be deactivated

apply at a  dealer

or call **877.466.3366** toll free

or visit **[www.abctelcom.com](http://www.abctelcom.com)**

ABC Telcom, Inc. dba *homefone*

visit **[www.lifeline.gov/lifeline\\_Consumers.html](http://www.lifeline.gov/lifeline_Consumers.html)**



## ***Government subsidized wireline phone service***

### **Service includes:**

- o **Monthly rate: \$25.95 monthly service including a \$9.25 Lifeline subsidy plus cost of any added calling features**
- o **Monthly rate may be promotionally discounted**
- o **Long distance: 1200 minutes to 48 States using toll free access for a monthly fee of \$12.00, or 1+ dialing and operator services with a deposit of \$100.00 and an appropriate credit rating**

### **Subsidy:**

- o **Subsidized service is Lifeline supported and only available to eligible customers. Lifeline is a government assistance program. To qualify customers**
  - a. **must be enrolled in one of the following programs: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Assistance to Needy Families /AFDC (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assist. (Section 8), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), National School Free Lunch (NSL), or qualify under the Income Based Eligibility according to state means test (i.e. maximum yearly income \$14,702, \$19,859, \$25,016 or \$30,173 for number of people in household of 1, 2, 3 or 4 respectively) Documentation is necessary for enrollment**
  - b. **must be head of my household & at least 18 years of age**
  - c. **must certify that neither they nor anyone in the household is now receiving a Lifeline subsidy at the address**
  - d. **must certify that in the future if their total household income exceeds 135% of the Federal poverty guidelines or they no longer are eligible to receive benefits from at least one of the public assistance programs listed above or if they change address, then they will notify *homefone* within thirty (30) days**
  - e. **must certify that they understand that Lifeline is only available for one land line or wireless phone per household & is non-transferable**

apply at a ***homefone*** dealer

or call **877.466.3366** toll free

or visit **[www.abctelcom.com](http://www.abctelcom.com)**

ABC Telcom, Inc. dba *homefone*

visit **[www.lifeline.gov/lifeline\\_Consumers.html](http://www.lifeline.gov/lifeline_Consumers.html)**