

Guide

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Lifeline: Promoting Telephone Subscribership on Tribal Lands

Lifeline is a government benefit program that provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers to help ensure they can connect to the nation's communications networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family and their children's schools, and call for help in an emergency. Lifeline is supported by the federal Universal Service Fund (USF).

Because telephone subscribership levels on Tribal lands are the lowest in the country, enhanced Lifeline benefits are available to low-income residents of Tribal lands. Link Up, another federal benefit program, reduces the initial installation or activation fees of certain telephone providers offering service on Tribal lands.

What Benefits Are Available Under the Tribal Lands Lifeline Program?

Tribal Lands Lifeline provides a monthly discount of up to \$34.25 off of the cost of telephone service, either wireline or wireless. This discount is currently \$9.25 (which is available to all eligible low-income consumers across the United States) **plus** up to an additional \$25 (which is available only to eligible low-income consumers living on Tribal lands.) This discount may vary somewhat from state to state, depending on whether the state has its own Lifeline program.

In some cases, Lifeline also includes **Toll Limitation Service**, which enables a telephone subscriber to limit the amount of long distance calls that can be made from a telephone.

Tribal Lands Link Up provides qualified subscribers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireline or wireless telephone for the primary residence. Tribal Lands Link Up also enables subscribers to pay the remaining amount that they owe on a deferred schedule, interest-free. Qualifying consumers may be eligible for Link Up again only after moving to a new primary residence. Tribal Link Up support is only offered to carriers who are building out infrastructure on Tribal lands, so not all carriers may be discounting their activation fee.

* Important Limitation on Tribal Lands Lifeline and Link Up: *

- **Federal rules prohibit qualifying low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Tribal Lands Lifeline service at the same time.** Low-income consumers who qualify may receive a Tribal Lands Lifeline discount on either a home telephone or a wireless telephone service, but may not receive a Lifeline discount on both services at the same time. Additionally, only ONE Tribal Lands Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. Lifeline applicants may demonstrate when initially enrolling in the program that any other Lifeline recipients residing at their residential address are part of a separate household.
- **Similarly, Federal rules prohibit qualifying low-income consumers from receiving more than ONE Tribal Lands Link Up discount at a primary residence.** Low-income consumers who qualify may receive a Tribal Lands Link Up discount on installation or activation charges associated with either wireline or wireless telephone service, but may not receive a Link Up discount on both services at the same time.

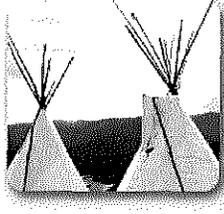
How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Medicaid;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP);
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);



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Contact Us

Kalispel Tribal Headquarters

P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180
Phone: (509) 445-1147
Fax: (509) 445-1705

Departments

- Culture
- Camas Path
- Camas Learning Center
- Additional Services
- Early Learning Center
- Medical/Dental
- Behavioral Health
- Tribal Court
- Tribal Gaming Agency
- Natural Resources
- Public Safety
- Human Resources
- Agriculture Enterprise
- KALTRAN

Kalispel Tribal Economic Authority

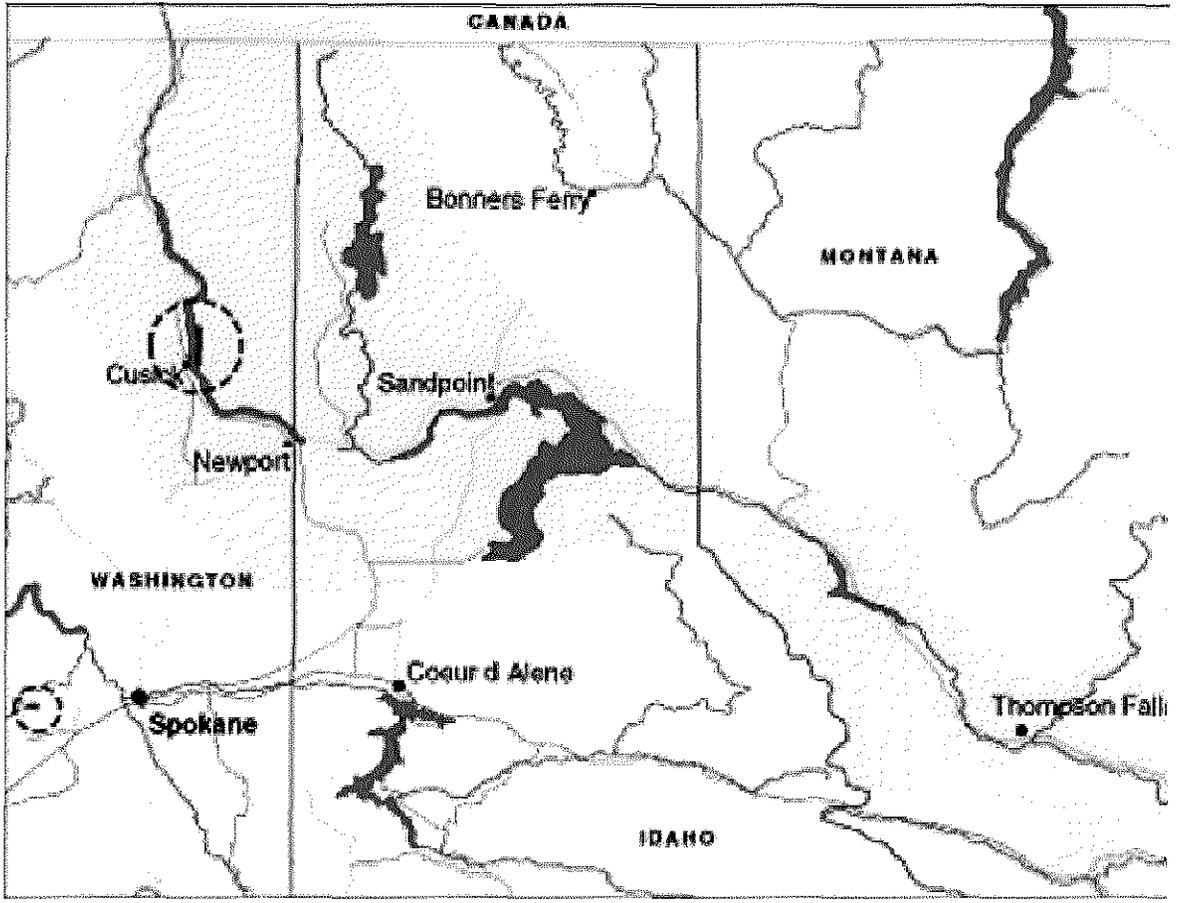
100 N. Hayford Road
Airway Heights, WA 99001
Phone: (509) 481-2479
Fax: (509) 481-2480

Northern Quest Resort & Casino

100 N. Hayford Road
Airway Heights, WA 99001
Phone: (509) 242-7000
Toll Free: (888) 603-7051
Fax: (509) 481-2163

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Social Services

Social Services Department will provide enhancement programs to promote self sufficiency among tribal members, provide community-based health and educational awareness, and foster continued collaborative efforts to meet the needs of Tribal and Community Members.

Contact Us

1821 N. LeClerc Rd #2
Cusick, WA 99119
Phone: (509) 447-7110
Fax: (509) 445-1650

Contract Health Services

Contract Health Services (CHS) use federal dollars to supplement and complement other health care resources available to eligible members of the Kalispel Tribe and Natives of the Kalispel Reservation Community. (Usk, Cusick)

Contract Health Coordinator

Deborah A. Flett
(509) 447-7117

Contract Health Forms:

-  [New Client Application](#)
-  [Yearly Update Form](#)

Senior Program

The Senior Program prepares and delivers nutritious meals, provides transportation and cultural activities to Tribal Elders 55 years of age and older, who live in the Communities of Usk or Cusick.

Senior Program Coordinator

Neala Cox
(509)447-7248

Community Assistance Programs

The overall goal of the program is to assist Kalispel Tribal Members who have urgent or emergent financial needs. We encourage members to be self-sufficient by providing them with financial tools and education. Members are not entitled to receive these benefits but must apply in advance for assistance with the exception of an emergency. Community Assistance funds are limited so other existing programs must be utilized prior to using this program. Each fund has different requirements and requires different information for determining eligibility. Documentation needed to complete an application must be supplied by the tribal member in order to process the claim. Staff will make payment arrangements solely for the services that are pre-approved. Members are liable for any cost of services that were not preapproved by the Community Assistance Program.

-  [Emergency Assistant Application](#)

Community Assistance Program Coordinator

Susan Nomee
(509)447-7130

Services

- [Kalispel Career Training Center](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Carnas Center](#)
- [Carnas Center Clinic](#)
- [Social Services](#)
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- [Education](#)
- [Recreation & Fitness](#)
- [Additional Services](#)

Read the info
9/1/13



Life Line Service is available to many residents which provide a reduced fee on your landline or wireless phone service.

Eligibility is determined by total household income that does not exceed 135% of the poverty guidelines.

If you are using any of the following services, you may already meet the requirements.

- SNAP
- TANF
- SSI
- Medicaid

Call **1.888.636.2840** for help with the correct forms and requirements.

www.rtc.net

Office will be closed September 2 in observance of Labor Day!

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR LIFELINE CUSTOMERS

Lifeline Support Decreases by \$0.75 per month Effective April, 2012

On February 6, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order (FCC 12-11) that makes significant changes to the federal and state Low Income Program known as Lifeline. This program provides support to eligible telephone customers to make local telephone service more affordable. Currently, the program provides support to more than 7 million Americans.

While the Order expands eligibility for Lifeline to potentially more recipients, beginning with your April, 2012 bill, the total federal and state Lifeline support will decrease by \$0.75 from a total of \$13.50 to \$12.75 per month. However, state support will increase to cover the difference and you will not see a change in what you pay at the present time.

Qualifying customers on Tribal lands may be eligible for increased Lifeline support. In addition, the Order increases the availability of Tribal Link-Up which pays all or part of the cost of connecting a new service on Tribal lands.

Please call 1-888-366-7821 if you have any questions regarding this change in Lifeline or Tribal Link-Up support.

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Your local telecommunications provider is pleased to offer Lifeline service, which provides discounted service only for eligible customers.

Every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. This principle of "Universal Service" has been the goal of the telecommunications industry for decades.

Lifeline is a government supported service available to qualified, low income customers and offers discounted services for eligible customers. Eligible consumers can receive one Lifeline-subsidized phone service per household. In addition, all new subscribers must demonstrate their eligibility at sign up and must re-certify their eligibility on an annual basis.

How Do I Qualify for Lifeline Discounts?

The Lifeline program is available to qualifying consumers in every state, territory and commonwealth. To qualify for Lifeline, subscribers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch free lunch program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met)
- State assistance programs (if applicable)

How Do I Prove that I Am Eligible?

All new subscribers must demonstrate that they are eligible. If a state database is unavailable, subscribers must show proof of eligibility by demonstrating that they meet the income qualifications or participate in a qualifying program listed above.

What if I No Longer Qualify for Program Benefits?

You are responsible for notifying your phone provider when you no longer meet the applicable eligibility requirements for the program within 30 days of becoming aware of such ineligibility.

What Does One Per Household Mean?

Only ONE Lifeline service may be obtained per household. "Household" is defined as any individual or group of individuals

who live together at the same address as one economic unit. An "economic unit" is defined as "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expense of a household." Lifeline support is available to eligible low-income consumers living in group living facilities. A Lifeline Household Worksheet for Determining whether there are multiple households at one address is available at <http://www.usac.org/li/>.

A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. A subscriber may not transfer his or her benefit to any other person.

Lifeline is a government benefit available to qualified, low income customers. Willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. Only one Lifeline service is available per household whether wired or wireless. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses.

What If I Have More Than One Lifeline Phone Service?

If you know that you are receiving more than one Lifeline benefit per household, you should immediately contact one of the providers to de-enroll from one of the Lifeline programs.

2012 Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family/ Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$11,170	\$13,970	\$12,860
2	\$15,130	\$18,920	\$17,410
3	\$19,090	\$23,870	\$21,960
4	\$23,050	\$28,820	\$26,510
5	\$27,010	\$33,770	\$31,060
6	\$30,970	\$38,720	\$35,610
7	\$34,930	\$43,720	\$41,160
8	\$38,890	\$48,620	\$44,710
For each additional person, add	\$3,960	\$4,950	\$4,550



This brochure was produced by the Foundation for Rural Service, the philanthropic arm of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. Its mission is to sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout rural America by advancing an understanding of rural telecommunications issues. For additional information on the Foundation, visit www.frs.org. This advocacy campaign is supported by the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative, based in Herndon, VA.

Special Services

DID YOU KNOW...

Telephone Assistance Programs are available to low-income individuals.

To qualify for Lifeline/Linkup Services, please *contact your local Department of Social and Health Services.*

Lifeline/Linkup Services are programs designed to assist low income households afford local telephone service. Lifeline assists with monthly telephone bills and Linkup assists with connection and installation charges.

*Please contact your local
Department of Social and Health Services*

or

**Call Toll Free
1-888-636-2840**

