
LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.1 **General** (Continued)

- E. Lifeline Service rate reductions only apply to basic network service and do not apply to long distance service, 976 and other information provider services, or any other optional services or functionalities (i.e., custom calling features, construction, etc.) which may or may not be tariffed. Customers may subscribe to such services including bundled service, where available, at their discretion, although the Lifeline Service reduction only applies to the basic service charge portion of the bundled service.
- F. The Lifeline Service rate reductions do not apply to service connection charges.
- G. Lifeline Service will not be available on a retroactive basis unless directed by the Low Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) or by the Commission.
- H. The Company shall waive monthly number portability charges, subject to its tariff, for Lifeline customers.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.2 Eligibility Requirements

- A. The discounted service will be provided for one (1) residential telephone line per household, at the subscriber's principal place of residence.

- B. The applicant must certify that their annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines participate in, be an eligible resident of Tribal lands, or have a person or child who resides in the customer household who participates in the programs identified in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.409 and also P.U.C. Substantive Rule 26.412 regarding consumer qualification for Lifeline.

- C. Procedures for Establishing Lifeline Discounts
 - (1) Consumers within the Company's service area identified as eligible for Lifeline Service by the Texas Low Income Discount Administrator through the automatic enrollment process under Commission Substantive Rule 26.412, shall be provided Lifeline Service discounts unless the Company receives a customer request to be excluded from such discounts. Consumers who are eligible for Lifeline Service but do not have telephone service at the time the LIDA provides its eligibility list to the Company are responsible for contacting the Company and initiating a request for service from the Company.

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.2 Eligibility Requirements (Cont'd)

C. Procedures for Establishing Lifeline Discounts (Cont'd)

- (2) Consumers who do not participate in one of the designated programs but who meet income qualifications by having an annual income at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, may establish self-enrollment eligibility for Lifeline Service by contacting the LIDA and receive Lifeline Service discounts within 30 days of proof of eligibility.
- (3) The discontinuance of the Tel-Assistance program effective September 1, 2001 allows the Company to move Tel-Assistance customers to Lifeline Service. The Brazoria exchange local service Tel-Assistance rate is a greater benefit than Lifeline, therefore, customers will continue to receive the grandfathered Tel-Assistance rate. For remaining Tel-Assistance customers who would not receive a greater benefit under Tel-Assistance Service rates, customers will be grandfathered at Lifeline rates. Rates will apply until the customer's service is discontinued or the customer is determined ineligible under this Section.

ISSUED BY: John H. Greenberg
President

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.2 Eligibility Requirements (Cont'd)

D. Provision of Service

- (1) The Company shall provide Lifeline Service to all eligible consumers identified by the LIDA within its service area if the consumer is a customer of the Company. Within 30 days after receipt of the list or receipt of customer affidavit, the Company shall begin reduced billing for those eligible low-income consumers.
- (2) If the eligible consumer changes the telephone service to qualifying services or initiates new qualifying service, the Company shall begin reduced billing at the time the change of service becomes effective or at the time the new service is established.
- (3) The Company will discontinue Lifeline Service discounts upon notice by LIDA that a customer is no longer eligible.
- (4) The Company has provided a confidentiality agreement to the LIDA specifying the use of confidential client information is solely for providing Lifeline Service.

6.4.3 Deposits

The deposit requirements will be waived for Lifeline Service applicants who voluntarily elect to subscribe to Toll Denial Service.

ISSUED BY: John H. Greenberg
President

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS
APPROVED

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TARIFF CLERK

BRAZORIA TELEPHONE COMPANY
GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF
TEXAS

SECTION 6
FIFTH REVISED SHEET NO. 17
REPLACING FOURTH REVISED SHEET NO. 17

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.4 Lifeline Service Discounts

A. Eligible consumers who subscribe to Lifeline Service will receive the following discounts:

- (1) Federal Lifeline support amount. The Company shall grant qualifying low-income consumers support of \$9.25 per month or equal to the amount as directed by the Federal Communications Commission in Chapter 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations § 54.402 regarding Lifeline support.
- (2) Additional state reduction. The Company shall give qualifying low-income consumers a state-approved reduction of up to \$3.50 in the monthly amount of intrastate charges due.

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BRAZORIA TELEPHONE COMPANY
GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF
TEXAS

SECTION 6
FIRST REVISED SHEET NO. 18
REPLACING ORIGINAL SHEET NO. 18

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.5 Service Charges

A. Service charges do not apply when eligible customers with existing residential service convert to Lifeline Service.

B. Service charges apply when:

- (1) At the time Lifeline Service billing is initiated, where existing eligible residential local exchange access service customers request additional features, such as special or custom calling features.
- (2) A customer receiving Lifeline Service voluntarily elects to convert to telephone service arrangements, which preclude Lifeline Service eligibility.
- (3) New residential applicants (those without existing local exchange access service) eligible for the Lifeline Program will be subject to applicable service charges.

C. Any subsequent moves or changes after the initial connection to Lifeline Service will be subject to applicable service charges.

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ISSUED BY: John H. Greenberg
President

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LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

6.4 LIFELINE PROGRAM (Cont'd)

6.4.6 Payments and Disconnection of Service

- A. The Company may not disconnect Lifeline Service for nonpayment of toll charges.
- B. A Lifeline customer is required to adhere to the same bill payment policies applicable to all of the Company's customers.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

BRAZORIA TELEPHONE COMPANY (SAC 442040)

ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017

ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY