

Speakers

- Benjamin DeMarzo, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Office of Field Policy and Management, HUD
- Tim Smyth, Director for Office of Field Policy and Management, HUD
- Micah Caldwell, Special Counsel, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau at FCC
- Catie Miller, Manager of Communications for Lifeline, USAC

Agenda

- Overview
- Application Process
 - Apply Online: Consumer Portal
 - Apply with Paper Form
- Enhanced Tribal Benefit
- COVID-19 Relief
- How to Get Help
- Live Demo
 - Companies Near Me
 - National Verifier Website
- Q&A



OverviewUniversal Service Administrative Company (USAC)

- The Universal Service Fund exists to ensure that all people in the United States have access to quality, affordable connectivity services
- USAC is an independent, not-for-profit organization designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as the permanent administrator of the Universal Service Fund and its four programs

OverviewThe Mission of Universal Service

USAC works to ensure that all people in the United States have access to connectivity services through these four programs:

- High Cost Program (Connect America Fund)
- Lifeline Program
- Rural Health Care Program
- Schools and Libraries Program (E-Rate)

OverviewLifeline Program



- Lifeline offers a monthly discount on phone or Internet service
- All eligible consumers can receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month
- Consumers who live on qualifying Tribal lands can receive enhanced support of up to \$34.25 per month
- Out of the seven million households that participate in Lifeline, about 274,000 of those receive enhanced support

8

OverviewHow to Qualify for Lifeline (1/2)

Consumers can qualify for the Lifeline Program by showing that:

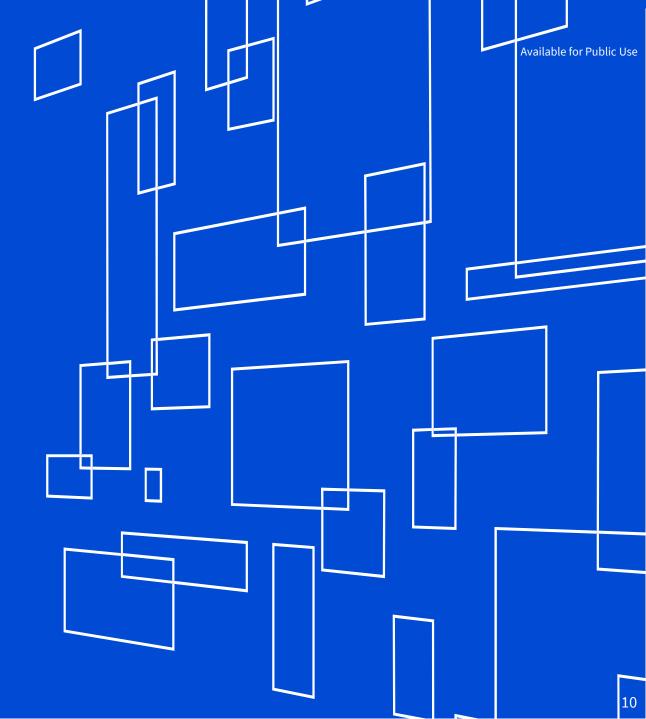
- Their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, OR
- They participate in at least one of the following qualifying government programs:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

OverviewHow to Qualify for Lifeline (2/2)

Residents of Tribal lands can also qualify for Lifeline by showing participation in one of the following programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA-GA)
- Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
- Tribal Head Start (must meet qualifying income standard)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Application Process



Application Process



Consumer completes Lifeline application





Consumer provides supporting documentation for any errors that the application received



Consumer qualifies for Lifeline and chooses Lifeline

company



Consumer informs Lifeline company of qualification status to enroll in the program

11

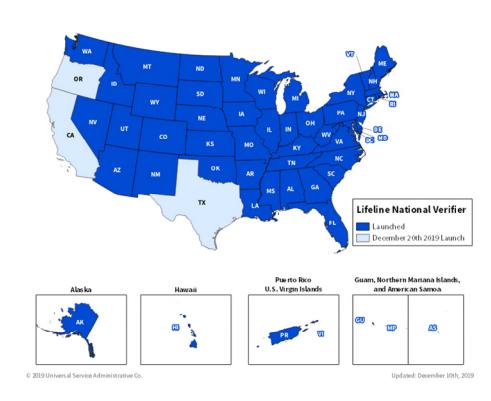




Application ProcessAbout the National Verifier

- The NV checks a consumer's Lifeline eligibility
- After eligibility is determined by the NV, a consumer selects a Lifeline-eligible phone or Internet service in order to enroll in the program and receive service
- The map shows all states where the NV has launched

^{*} In Texas, Oregon, and California, the NV relies on existing state eligibility processes



Application ProcessWays to Use the National Verifier

Option 1

Apply Online: Consumer Portal

- The consumer visits
 <u>CheckLifeline.org</u> from any computer or mobile device to create an account and complete the electronic application
- After the consumer qualifies for Lifeline, the consumer contacts a service provider to enroll

Option 2

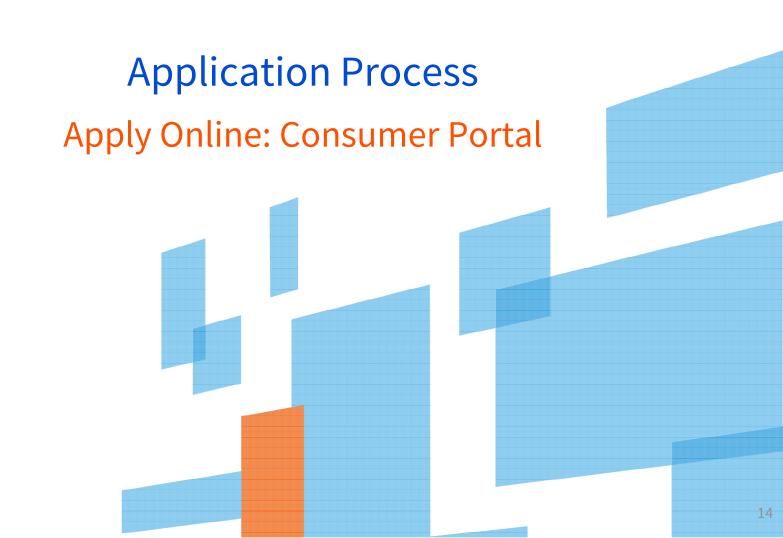
Apply with Paper Form

- The consumer fills out the <u>National Verifier Lifeline</u> <u>Application Form</u>
- The consumer mails in their documentation to the Lifeline Support Center or delivers it to their service provider
- After the consumer qualifies for Lifeline, the consumer contacts a service provider to enroll

Option 3

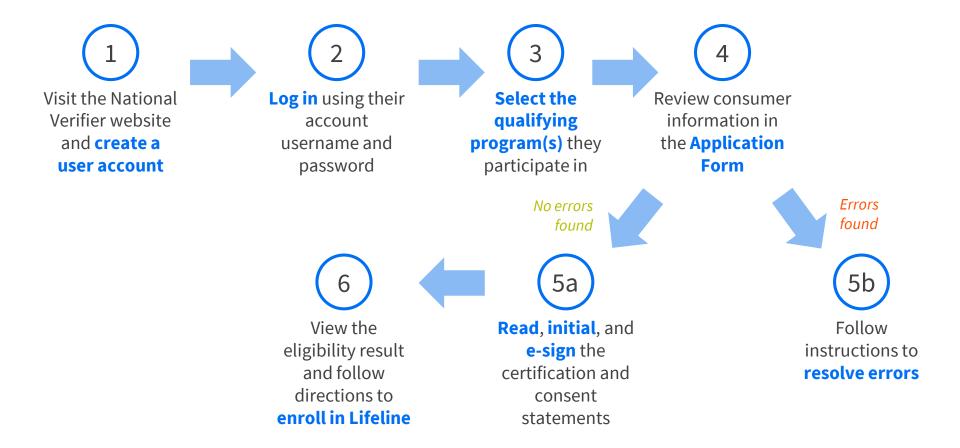
Apply with a Service Provider

- The consumer can find service providers in their area using the <u>Companies</u> <u>Near Me</u> tool on USAC's website
- The consumer visits a service provider store or website and the service provider will collect the consumer's information
- After the consumer qualifies for Lifeline, the service provider enrolls the consumer



Apply Online: Consumer Portal

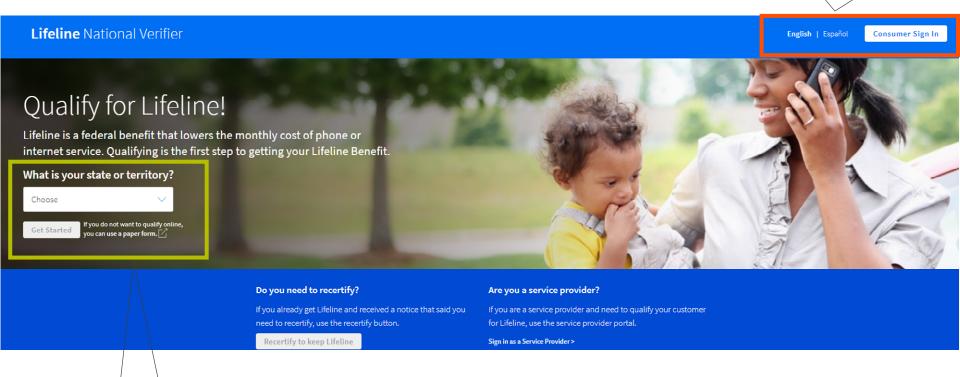
Process Overview



New consumer starts here

CheckLifeline.org

Returning consumer signs in here



Step 1: Create NV Account

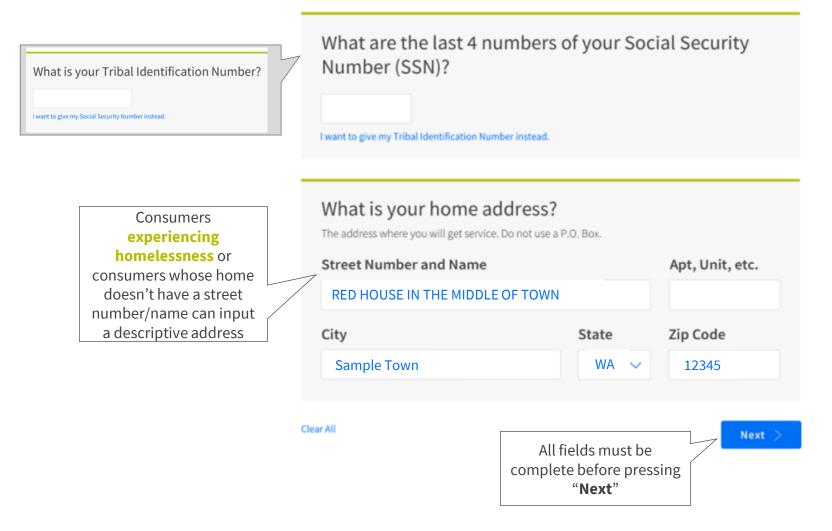
V	Your Information We will use this information to find or Program.	out if you qualify for the Lifeline
	What is your full legal name? The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security Card or State ID. Not a nickname. First Name Middle Name (Optional)	
	Last Name	Suffix (Optional)
Date of birth must be in the MM/DD/YYYY format	What is your date of birth? Month Day Year MM DD YYYY	

- First and last name may only consist of letters, hyphens, spaces, and single quotes
- The first name should be the consumer's legal name, not a nickname
- The last name must be at least 2 characters

18

Apply Online: Consumer Portal

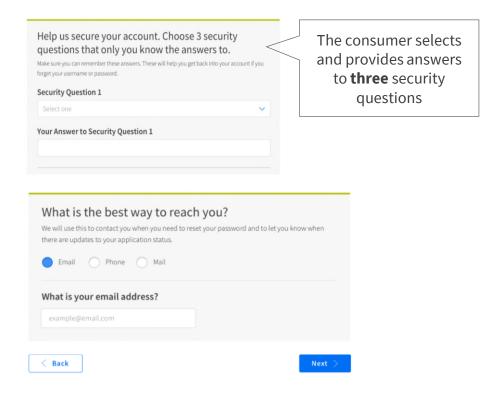
Step 1: Create NV Account



The consumer will create their username and password and log in to the consumer portal

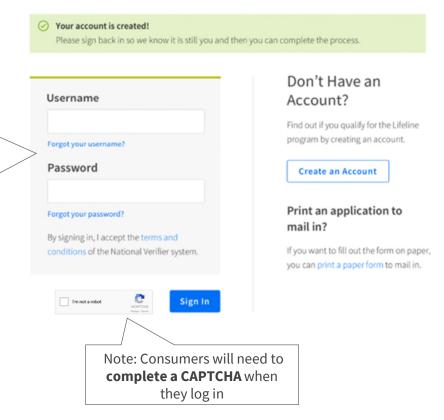
Create Your Account Making an account will let us keep your information safe. It will also The consumer will see the username let you save it and can come back to it any time. and password requirements and they will be notified if: 1) A username is unavailable 2) A username does not Choose your username. Choose something that you can easily remember. If it helps, use your name in some form. meet requirements and/or 3) A password does not meet Username requirements Choose your password. Make sure it is something you can remember. It has to follow the requirements below. **Password Password Requirements** (1) At least 8 letters or numbers long ① At least 1 capital letter Confirm Password ① At least 1 number (0-9) Type the same password again. ① At least 1 special character (!@#\$%^&*)

Consumers will then be asked to provide answers to the security questions to help the consumer reset their password and / or username in the future, if necessary

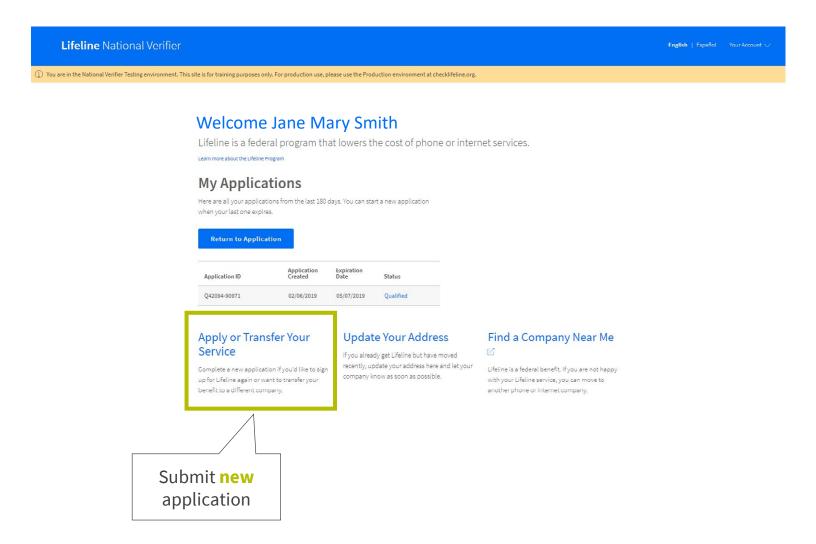


Sign In To Your Account

- If a consumer forgets their username or password, they can reset them by clicking these links
- They enter in their email to recover their username or answer security questions to reset their password



Apply Online: Consumer PortalStep 2: Log in to the Consumer Portal



Apply Online: Consumer PortalStep 3: Select Qualifying Program(s)

Tell Us Which Program You Are In

To qualify for Lifeline, we need to know which government assistance program you are in.

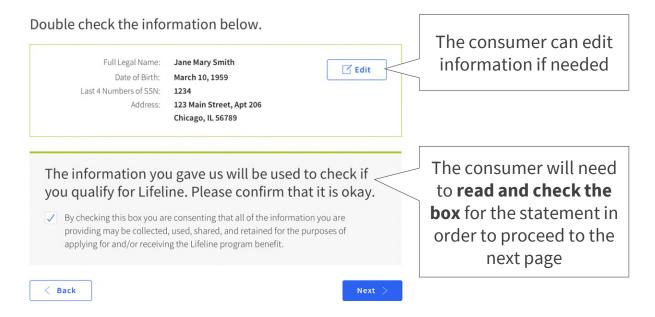
The consumer should check the box next to **all** the programs that they are in

	Are you in any of these? Check all that apply.	
>	SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps	
	Medicaid Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	
	Supplemental Security income (SSI) Federal Public Housing Assistance	
	Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs	
	Tribal Specific Program (only choose if you live on tribal lands)	
	I don't participate in one of these programs, I want to qualify through my income. I am not in any of these, but my child or dependent is in one of these programs. ?	
	Back	Next

Apply Online: Consumer PortalStep 4: Review the Application Form

Review Your Information

Before we check if you qualify for Lifeline, make sure your information is right.

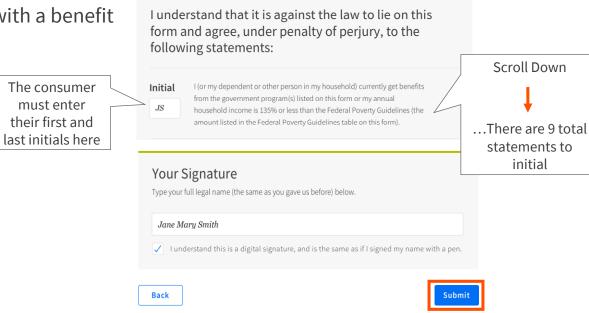


Apply Online: Consumer PortalStep 5a: Initial Statements and E-Sign

- A person assisting a consumer cannot initial or enter the e-signature for the consumer
- The benefit recipient must be the one to enter their initials, even when applying with a benefit qualifying person (BQP)

Agreement

You are almost done qualifying. Please initial next to each statement and sign this form to finish the process.



Apply Online: Consumer Portal Step 6: Qualified, Next Steps | Follow Instructions to Enroll

The consumer's "Qualified" eligibility result will expire in 90 days so they must sign up with a service provider by the listed date

You Qualify for Lifeline

Sign up for Lifeline by Apr 30, 2018 (Based on US Eastern Time)

You have 90 days from today to sign up for Lifeline with a phone or internet company.

How to sign up

- 1 Choose a company
 - Find one using the list of service providers near you.
- Tell them you qualified for Lifeline online, and ask them to sign you up.

Bring the following with you:

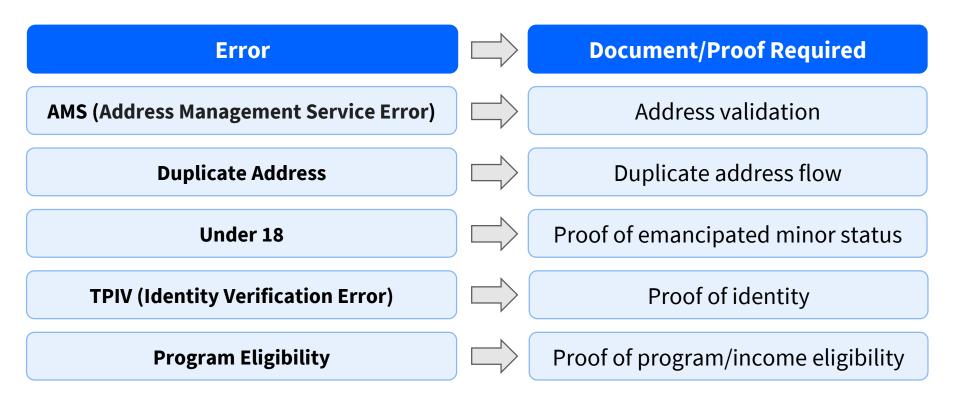
- . A form of identification (like a driver's license)
- Your confirmation number: N3B-2U1-23WN
- After they sign you up, you will start getting your phone or internet service.

i If you do not sign up by Apr 30, 2018 (Based on US Eastern Time) you will need to come back to this site and fill this form out again.

Apply Online: Consumer Portal

Step 5b: Resolve Errors

If a consumer receives any of the following errors, they can resolve them by <u>submitting documentation</u> or additional information (the online system will also walk consumers through the process to submit more information):



Apply Online: Consumer Portal Step 5b: Resolve Errors - AMS

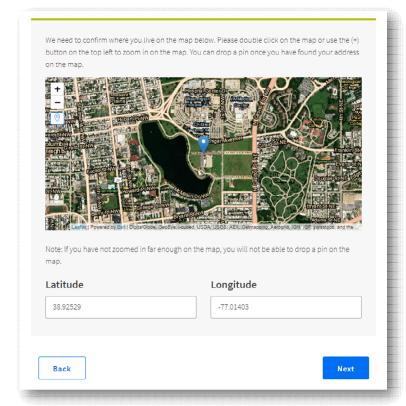
- If a consumer entered a descriptive address (e.g., consumer experiencing homelessness) or another address that cannot be verified, they will need to provide more information using this mapping tool
- The map will try to locate where the consumer resides based on the information originally entered
 - The latitude and longitude fields will automatically populate
- The consumer can move the pin around to locate where they live

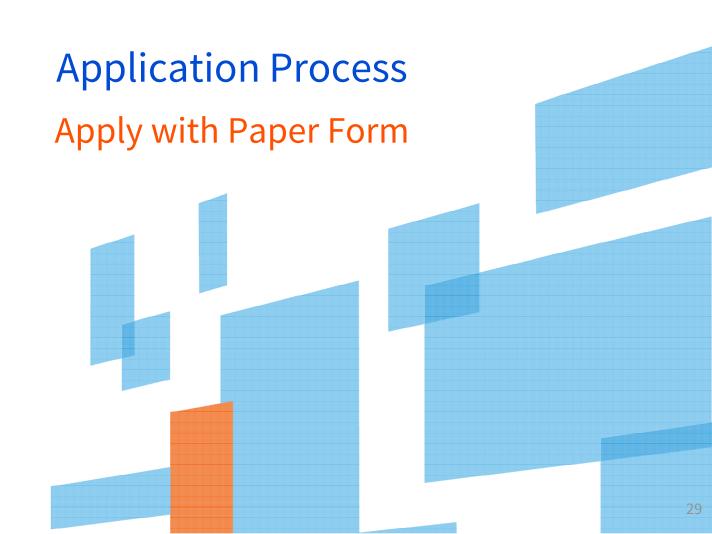
We Didn't Recognize Your Address

The U.S. Postal Service could not find the address you gave us.

Show us that your address is right.

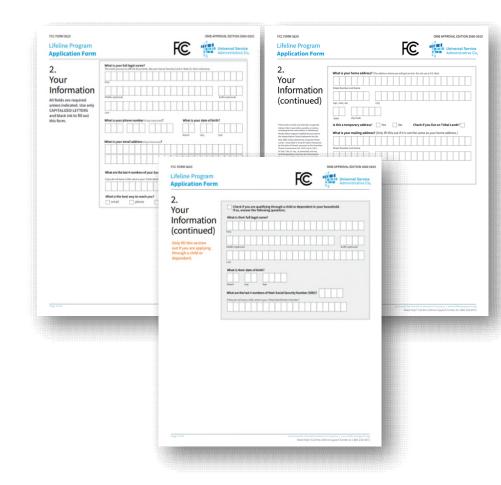
This is the information you gave us.





Apply with Paper Form Required Fields

- Consumers must complete all sections of the <u>application</u> (excluding page 7)
- Write clearly, using black ink and capital letters
- Consumers enter the same information they would include on the online application



Apply with Paper Form

Resolve Errors: AMS

Option 1: If a consumer has access to the Internet but does not want to submit an online application, USAC recommends that they use a mapping tool (such as Google maps) to drop a pin where they live

 Consumers may take a screenshot of the mapping tool (the image should include the dropped pin and the consumer's latitude and longitude coordinates) and print it out

Option 2: A consumer may use a map from their community (i.e., from a gas station or if their phone/Internet company or, if applicable, Tribal government)

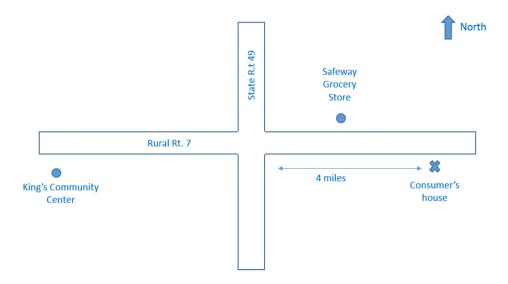
- The consumer must circle where they live
- If coordinates are known, the consumer should write them on the map

Apply with Paper Form

Resolve Errors: AMS

Option 3: Consumers may hand draw a map to show where they live

- This map should include cross roads, identifiable landmarks, and distances
- If coordinates are known, the consumer should write them on the map



Option 4: Several other documents are acceptable to resolve an <u>AMS error</u>

USAC strongly recommends that consumers seeking the enhanced Tribal benefit use options 1 - 3

Apply with Paper Form Submission

Consumers mail completed applications to:

USAC Lifeline Support Center P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742

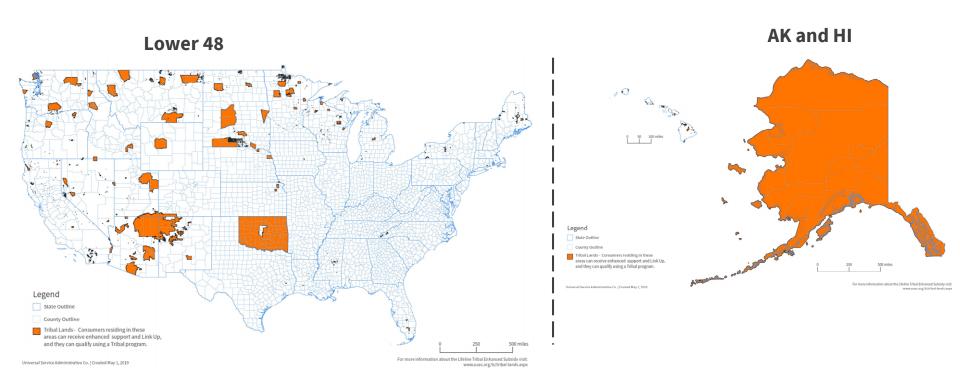
- USAC will send an eligibility decision via mail from the Lifeline Support Center
 - If a consumer's application receives an error and they need to submit more information, the consumer will also be notified via mail
- Consumers should receive eligibility decisions within 7 and 10 days
- Consumers can call the Lifeline Support Center to check their application status at (800) 234-9473

Apply with Paper Form Tips

- If consumers have access to email, we encourage them to include their email address on their application
- Include copies of eligibility and identity documents as well as the Independent Economic Household (IEH) Worksheet to reduce processing time
 - The <u>IEH Worksheet</u> and information on what documentation is needed to resolve <u>specific errors</u> can be found on <u>LifelineSupport.org</u>



Federally Recognized Tribal Lands



https://www.usac.org/wp-content/uploads/lifeline/documents/tribal/fcc_tribal_lands_map.pdf

EligibilityTribal Residents

- Do you live on federally-recognized Tribal lands and do you, a child, or dependent participate in any of the following government programs?
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance (BIA-GA)
 - Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
 - Tribal Head Start (must meet qualifying income standard)
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
- Are you starting service at this address for the first time?
 - If so, you may be eligible for Link Up, a Lifeline benefit for Tribal residents which reimburses consumers up to \$100 for starting their Lifeline service with certain carriers
 - You will need to confirm with your Lifeline carrier that they offer Link Up

Available for Public Use COVID-19 Relief 38

COVID-19 Relief



The FCC and USAC have taken action, effective through **August 31, 2020**, to ensure that consumers have access to the communications services they need during the pandemic:

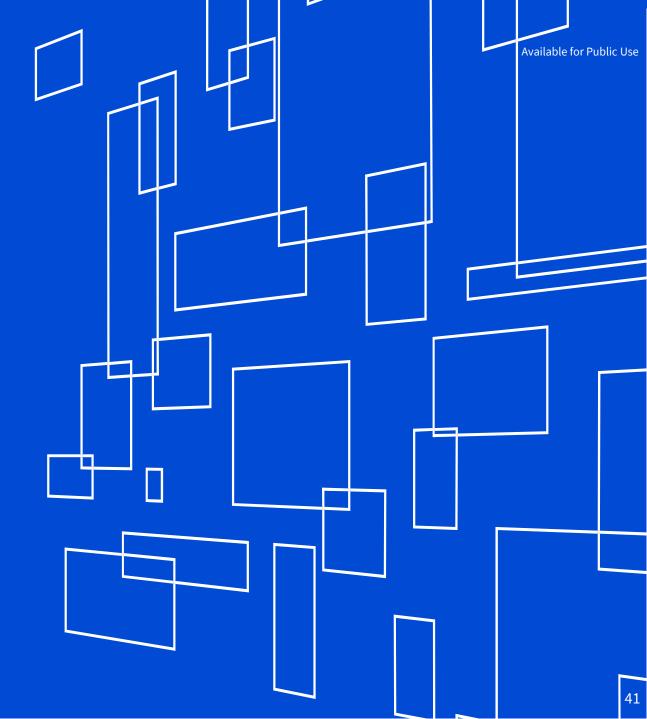
- Continued service: The FCC temporarily waived certain rules to ensure consumers are not involuntarily de-enrolled from the Lifeline Program during the pandemic
- More flexibility: The FCC temporarily adjusted income eligibility documentation requirements to allow people who are recently unemployed to prove Lifeline eligibility

COVID-19 Relief



- Additional support: USAC is temporarily accepting driver's licenses or state identification cards that have recently expired when needed to complete a Lifeline application
- Relief for rural, Tribal consumers: The FCC temporarily waived its rules so that Lifeline providers may elect to begin providing Lifeline service to consumers living in rural areas on Tribal lands even if those consumers have not yet submitted certain supporting documentation to complete their Lifeline application
 - Consumers who enroll through this waiver process will have 45 days to provide the required documentation
- For more information, visit USAC's Lifeline <u>COVID-19</u>
 <u>Response</u> page

How to Get Help



How to Get HelpConsumer Resources

Lifeline Support Center

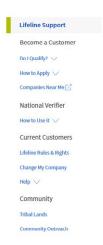
- (800) 234-9473
- <u>LifelineSupport@usac.org</u>
- 9 a.m.– 9 p.m. ET, 7 days a week

LifelineSupport.org

- Videos on the application process
- Information on <u>how to resolve errors</u>
- Specific information for <u>Tribal</u> <u>residents</u> (including information on Tribal Link Up)
- Companies Near Me



Apply Now



Get Connected



Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Eligible customers will get up to \$9.25 toward their bill. You can only use Lifeline for either phone or internet, but not both. To get Lifeline, find a company[2] near you.

① Consumers in some states and territories can apply for Lifeline directly. To learn how click here.

Get Lifeline

Current Customers

Do I Qualify?

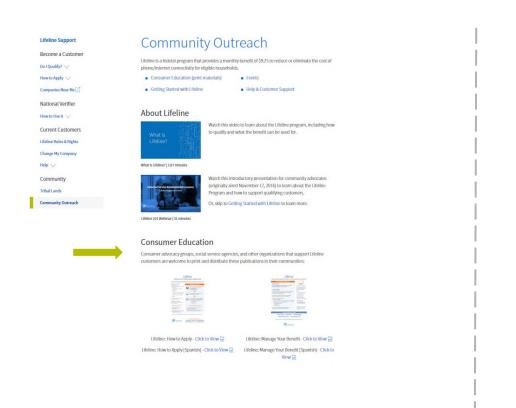
Change your Company

Determine income or program eligibility.

Choose from local companies.

How to Get HelpConsumer Resources

Downloadable Flyers





How to Get HelpConsumer Resources

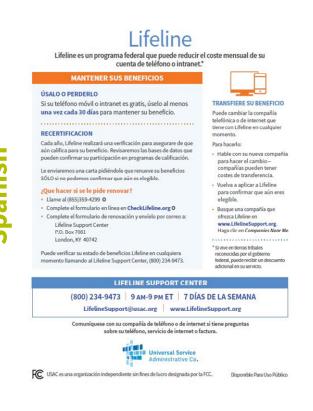
Downloadable Flyers

HOW TO KEEP YOUR BENEFIT **USE IT OR LOSE IT** If your mobile phone or Internet is free, use it at least TRANSFER YOUR BENEFIT once every 30 days to keep the benefit. You may change the phone or internet company registered RECERTIFICATION with Lifeline at any time. Each year, Lifeline will conduct a check to ensure you still qualify for the benefit. We will review databases that can verify your Talk to your new company participation in qualifying programs. to make the switchsome companies may We will send you a letter asking you to renew your benefit ONLY if we are unable to confirm you are still eligible. · Reapply to Lifeline to What to do if asked to renew: confirm you are still eligible. · Call (855) 359-4299 OR · Search for a phone or . Complete the form online at CheckLifeline.org OR internet company at · Complete the Renewal form and mail it to: www.LifelineSupport.org Lifeline Support Center Click Companies Near Me. P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742 * If you live on federally recognized You may check your Lifeline Benefit status anytime by Tribal Lands, you may receive calling the Lifeline Support Center, (800) 234-9473. an additional discount towards vour service. LIFELINE SUPPORT CENTER (800) 234-9473 9 AM-9 PM ET 7 DAYS PER WEEK LifelineSupport@usac.org www.LifelineSupport.org Contact your phone or internet company about your phone, internet service, or bill. Universal Service

Available for Public Use

Lifeline

Lifeline is a federal program that helps lower the cost of your monthly phone or Internet bill.*



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USAC is an independent not-for-profit designated by the FCC.

44

How to Get Help

Glossary (1/2)



- National Verifier (NV): The national application system that consumers in most states can use to apply for the program
- Service provider portal: The NV online system that phone and Internet companies may use to help their consumers submit an application for Lifeline
- Consumer portal: The NV online system that consumers may use on their own to submit an application for Lifeline

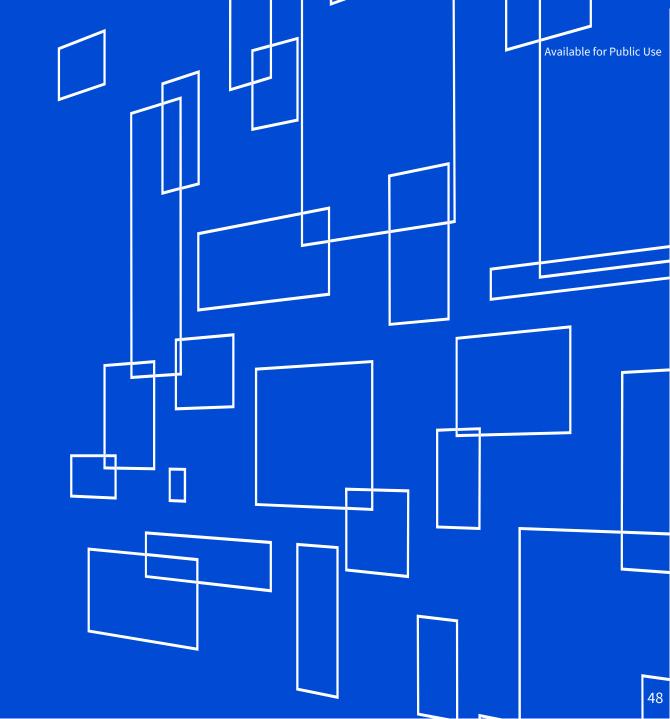
How to Get Help

Glossary (2/2)



- **Benefit qualifying person (BQP)**: If an individual is not eligible for Lifeline, but has a child or dependent that is eligible, the individual qualifies for Lifeline based on the status of their child/dependent
- Independent economic household (IEH): Only one Lifeline benefit is allowed per household, which is defined as a group of people that share income and expenses
 - If a consumer lives with other people that receive Lifeline but do not share income and expenses (e.g., nursing home, homeless shelter, roommates), then they may still be eligible
- IEH Worksheet: The IEH Worksheet (or <u>Lifeline Household Worksheet</u>)
 is the form a consumer must complete to self-certify that they do not
 share income and expenses with another Lifeline subscriber if they
 share the same address





Q&A

Thank You

- Thank you for joining us!
- Keep watching the consumer web page for more updates
 - www.LifelineSupport.org
- Want to stay up to date on Lifeline?
 - Sign up for the <u>Lifeline newsletter</u>
- Need help? Contact us!
 - <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u>