

What is Lifeline?

Lifeline is a federal program that provides assistance with the monthly access line charge or broadband Internet service. Only one Lifeline Program discount (either wireless or landline telephone, home Internet or a cell phone data plan) is allowed per household. The definition of a “household” is anyone living at an address (including children, relatives, people not related to you, etc.) who share income(s) and household expenses.

Eligibility & Application Process:

If you are enrolled in one of these programs you will qualify for Lifeline assistance:

- Medical (Title XIX/Medicaid)
- SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
- SSI: Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veteran’s Pension or Survivor’s Pension Benefits

You’ll need to complete a Lifeline Assistance Certification Form & Lifeline Household Worksheet. You will need to attach a copy of program enrollment, such as a notice or letter, an eligibility card, or other official document that shows you or a household member receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program.

If you are not enrolled in a qualifying program, you may be eligible based on your income, if it meets the 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. To apply, you’ll need to complete a Lifeline Assistance Certification Form & Lifeline Household Worksheet, and provide a copy of required documents for income certification.

| Number in household | Household income (at or below) | Documents to certify income: |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | \$16,038 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year’s federal or state income tax return • Current annual income statement from employer • Paycheck stubs for most recent 3 consecutive months • Social Security statement of benefits • Veteran’s Administration statement of benefits • Retirement or pension statement of benefits • Unemployment or worker’s compensation statement of benefits • Federal notice of participation in general assistance • Divorce degree or child support documentation |
| 2 | \$21,627 | |
| 3 | \$27,216 | |
| 4 | \$32,805 | |
| 5 | \$38,394 | |
| 6 | \$43,983 | |
| 7 | \$49,586 | |
| 8 | \$55,202 | |
| *For each additional person add \$5,616 | | |

Current guidelines can be located at: http://www.universalservice.org/_res/documents/li/pdf/handouts/Income_Requirements.pdf

Annual Recertification:

Mid Century is required to recertify customers annually, and may require timely assistance from customer to maintain eligibility.

Questions:

Please call Mid Century Telephone Cooperative at 309.778.8611, or visit our office at 285 Mid Century Lane in Fairview, Illinois. Completed forms can be mailed to: Mid Century Telephone Cooperative; PO Box 380; Fairview, IL 61432.