

Application for Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Telephone Assistance Based on Household Income

The Link-Up Florida and Lifeline Telephone Assistance programs are available to *low-income, residential households*.

Link-Up reduces the first installation fee by 50% up to \$30.

Lifeline reduces the local basic telephone service charge by \$13.50 monthly

Lifeline/Link-Up is only available for one telephone line per address.

To qualify under income guidelines, your household income must be no greater than **150%** of the federal poverty guidelines. **Documentation showing your household income must accompany this application.**

Name (please print): _____ Last four digits of Social Security Number: _____	Name as it appears on phone bill (please print): _____
Home Address (number and street): _____ Apt./Lot/Unit/Room #(circle one): _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ ----- Mailing Address (if different from home address): _____	Telephone Number: (number must be in the name of the person requesting service): () _____ Name of your telephone company: _____ Are you applying for Link-Up? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <u>If you have service from a wireless provider such as Safelink, Assurance or T-Mobile, you must terminate service with them BEFORE applying for Lifeline/Link-Up on your home phone. If you receive public assistance, please apply directly with your phone company.</u>
How many people live in your household? Total Number: _____ Number of children under age of 18: _____	What is your total monthly/yearly household income? \$ _____ (monthly / yearly) (Please see back for income guideline chart) Number of people receiving income: _____
<p style="text-align: center;">Failure to provide the following documents will delay your approval for Lifeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Application <u>completed</u> and signed <input type="checkbox"/> Proof of total household income (<i>See back for examples</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Recent copy of phone bill 	

Please read the following statement carefully before signing.

I certify under penalty of perjury that I qualify based on my total household income; I do not have a free wireless cell phone and I do not currently receive Lifeline support with any wireless carrier; I agree to cancel service on my free cell phone in order to apply for LL on my home phone; no other resident in the household receives Lifeline benefits; I am head of household and I cannot be claimed as a dependent on anyone's tax return; I agree to notify the telephone company when I am no longer eligible for this assistance program.

Applicant Signature (must match name on phone bill)

Please return this form to:

**Office of Public Counsel
C/O The Florida Legislature
111 West Madison St. Rm. 812
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400
Fax: (850) 487-6419**

To verify receipt of a fax or if you have any questions, please call our toll free number at 1-800-540-7039.

**Income Guideline Chart
150% of the Poverty Level**

Number of People in Household	Total Household Income	
	MONTHLY	YEARLY
1	\$1,361	\$16,335
2	\$1,839	\$22,065
3	\$2,316	\$27,795
4	\$2,794	\$33,525
5	\$3,271	\$39,255
6	\$3,749	\$44,985
7	\$4,226	\$50,715
8	\$4,704	\$56,445

*For families with more than 8 persons, add **\$5,730** for each additional person to the yearly amount.

**Examples of Proof of Household Income
and Supporting Documents**

- Social Security award letter or 1099A that states amount received
- U.S. 1040 income tax form (first two pages only)
- W-2 wage and tax statement that reflects your **current** employment
- VA award letter that shows amount received
- Unemployment award letter or statement of amount received
- **ONE** bank statement showing a direct deposit of your income clearly highlighted
- Workmen’s Compensation award letter that states amount received
- Divorce or Child support decree stating award amount
- **THREE** consecutive pay statements showing “gross” pay from **current** employment
- If there is **\$0 income** in the household, we require a written statement signed and dated by you verifying that you have no household income
- Send only **COPIES** of the documents that apply to you and they must be **CURRENT**. Do not send **ORIGINALS** because we shred all documents after processing your application.

What is it?

LIFELINE is a public assistance program that reduces the monthly telephone bill by at least \$13.50. The reduction is in the form of a credit and is deducted from the local basic service charge.

LINK-UP is a public assistance program that reduces the cost of the telephone installation fee by 50% up to the amount of \$30. You should contact your telephone company to inform them that you want Link-Up.

Also, please answer “Yes” to the question on the application “Are you applying for Link-Up”. The reduction is in the form of a credit and is deducted from the first installation fee.

LIFELINE/LINK-UP is available for one telephone line per household. Phone service must be registered in the name of the applicant. If you are **NOT** a customer of **AT&T Florida, CenturyLink** or **Verizon**, please contact your telephone company to apply for Lifeline/Link-Up.

Notice: Some calling plans will disqualify you for LL. You should determine whether a plan is eligible for LL **BEFORE** you sign up for it. Ask your telephone company what programs are available with LL.

Check with your local company to determine the kind of service you currently have and if it prevents your household from receiving the Lifeline/Link-Up discount. **You may terminate your calling plan or package without penalty in order to take advantage of the Lifeline reduction on the local basic service charge.**

Who is eligible?

Low income residential heads of households are eligible. Income is determined by the federal poverty guidelines which are based on the number of people in the household and the total amount of money received by **each member** in the household.

Households participating in the public assistance programs listed below must contact their local telephone company to request an application for Lifeline/Link-Up. You may also visit the **Florida Public Service Commission website at <http://www.psc.state.fl.us> to apply online or to download an application based on participation in public assistance.** **The following programs will qualify you for LL:** Food Assistance (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or the Bureau of Indian Affairs Programs.