

*Bascom Mutual Telephone Company*

LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Lifeline program provides financial assistance to qualified low-income residents; ensuring them affordable telephone or broadband service. A qualified Lifeline customer must choose between a traditional wireline provider, a qualified wireless provider, or broadband but not more than one. Federal rules prohibit qualifying consumers from receiving more than one Lifeline discount per household. Consumers violating this one per household rule may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties.

Lifeline service is a non-transferable benefit available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, and on Tribal lands. You must be eligible to enroll, and you must reconfirm your eligibility with the service provider annually. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in Lifeline discounts.

If you purchase voice and qualifying broadband services, the federal Lifeline discount will apply to your qualifying broadband service, and the 12-month benefit transfer restriction will apply.

Consumers may qualify by either having an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines (proof of income is required) or participate in one of the following assistance programs (proof of participation is required):

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans Pension & Survivors

Lifeline customers of traditional wireline companies receive the following benefits:

- Do not pay service connection charges
- Do not pay a deposit to establish service
- Do not pay the access recovery charge
- Receive a monthly basic service charge discount of \$9.25
- Do not pay charges related to the Universal Service Fund and Local number portability
- Can receive free “toll blocking” and blocking for 900/976 telephone numbers to prohibit all outgoing long-distance calls
- Special payment arrangements (or can re-establish service if previously disconnected) by paying \$25 and the remaining balance over a period not to exceed 6 months.

Bascom Mutual Telephone Company’s Voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Bascom Mutual Telephone Company’s Voice Lifeline Plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, Toll Blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Lifeline discounts on voice include a transfer restriction (port freeze) for 60 days. This means that you are unable to obtain the Lifeline discount on service with another provider for 60 days from the date that your current voice service Lifeline discounts began.

Broadband speeds must be 15Mbps download and 2Mbps upload or faster to qualify. Lifeline discounts on broadband include a transfer restriction (port freeze) for 12 months. This means that once Lifeline broadband discounts begin, you will be unable to obtain a Lifeline discount with another provider for 12 months if you switch your service.

More information about eligibility, how to apply for Lifeline benefits, or what to do if your household is receiving more than one discount, is available at the Universal Service Administrative Company's website <http://www.usac.org/li/getting-service> or you may also call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322.

To apply for assistance, complete the Application for Lifeline Service form and bring it to the Bascom Mutual Telephone Company office along with the required proof of participation documents and photo identification. [Click here for the LIFELINE APPLICATION](#)