Shinnecock Indian Reservation Qualifies for Lifeline Tribal Lands Benefit

December 3, 2021

The FCC informed the Shinnecock Indian Nation, a federally recognized tribe located in New York, that it considered the Shinnecock Indian Reservation as eligible for the Lifeline Tribal lands benefit under section 54.400(e) of the Lifeline rules. This determination was reached after receipt of a request from the Shinnecock Indian Nation that the land comprising the Shinnecock Indian Reservation be deemed Tribal for the purposes of the Lifeline program by the FCC’s Office of Native Affairs and Policy and Wireline Competition Bureau.

This decision means that consumers who are eligible for Lifeline and live on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation qualify for Lifeline’s enhanced Tribal benefit of up to $34.25 per month off phone or Internet service, and for Link Up—which provides eligible consumers up to a $100 reduction for first-time connection charges for Lifeline service at their primary residence.

Lifeline’s Tribal Lands Resources Updated

USAC has updated Lifeline’s National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) Tribal Lands Eligibility Verification tool. Additionally, updated versions of the Eligible Tribal Lands for the Lifeline Program map and the shapefile of Tribal lands are now available on USAC’s Tribal Enhanced Benefit webpage.

USAC has also updated the NLAD tool, shapefile, and PDF map based on the latest 2020 datasets available from the Census Bureau.

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For questions about Lifeline, including technical issues and program resources or rules, email LifelineProgram@usac.org. Review all appropriate program contacts on USAC’s Lifeline Contact Us webpage.