



The Federal Lifeline Program's New Tribal Toolkit and More

October 15, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader,

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which administers the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Program, wants to ensure that you are aware of the Lifeline Program's federal phone and Internet benefit and the availability of new resources for Tribal applicants.

Lifeline offers a monthly discount of up to \$9.25 toward phone or Internet services for eligible consumers and up to \$34.25 for those living on [federally-recognized Tribal lands](#). Additionally, residents of Tribal lands can receive reimbursement for the full cost of starting service with certain phone or Internet companies at their primary residence, up to \$100, through Lifeline's Tribal Link Up benefit.

Consumers may apply for Lifeline by submitting an [online application](#), mailing in a [paper application](#) to the Lifeline Support Center, or working with a [Lifeline phone or Internet company](#) to begin the application process.

Consumers qualify for Lifeline if their income is at or below [135% of the federal poverty guidelines](#) or if they participate in [government assistance programs](#), such as SNAP or Medicaid. Consumers living on Tribal lands may also qualify through participation in Tribal assistance programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Tribal Head Start, and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

Lifeline is committed to serving Tribal consumers to ensure they can navigate the program successfully. In an effort to provide Tribal communities with more educational resources about the program, Lifeline has recently published [Lifeline's Tribal Toolkit](#). This toolkit includes informational material about the program, including an online article, public

service announcements, and social media posts. Use this content as a template or post the information directly as is – Tribes are encouraged to translate the information to their communities' indigenous languages to share more widely.

Lastly, USAC offers frequent [webinars](#) on Lifeline, including some designed specifically to address Tribal needs. Please share this information with any organizations in your community that may be interested in learning about the Lifeline program or attending a free Lifeline Tribal Training.

We hope that you find this information useful. For questions about the Lifeline Program, requests to learn more, or feedback about the Lifeline's Tribal resources, email TribalLiaison@usac.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Questions or Suggestions?

Contact USAC's Tribal Liaison at TribalLiaison@usac.org or (202) 572-5733.