How to Apply for Lifeline

Tribal Training

June 10, 2025



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🖲 Materials

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2 Questions

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Disclaimer

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Meet Our Team

Gem Labarta

Tribal Liaison

Oladotun Adio Communications Specialist

Agenda

- Announcements
- Introduction to USAC
- Lifeline Program Overview
- How to Apply for Lifeline
- Providing Additional Information
- Resources

Announcements

Upcoming Dates

- E-Rate and Tribal
 - Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program (T-LEAP) Summer Kick-Off June 24, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET – <u>Register</u>
 - Beginning E-Rate Services July 8, 2025, at 4 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- E-Rate
 - Invoicing: Applicants & Service Providers June 12, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- Lifeline
 - Representative Accountability Database (RAD) 101 June 11, 2025, at 3 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
- Service Providers
 - E-Rate Service Providers June 24, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>
 - Revenue Reporting for VoIP Resellers June 11, 2025, at 2 p.m. ET <u>Register</u>

Announcements FCC Form 481

- All service providers participating in the Lifeline and/or High Cost programs must file and certify the FCC Form 481 on an annual basis.
 - This form collects financial and operational information, which USAC uses to validate service provider support.
- The filing window is now open, and service providers must log into <u>One Portal</u> to access and certify the FCC Form 481 **by July 1, 2025**.
- For more information on the form requirements, please review USAC's <u>Annual</u> <u>Requirements webpage</u> and High Cost's webinar on <u>Filing Form 481</u>.

Everyone. Connect



Who We Are: The Universal Service Administrative Company

- The **Universal Service Administrative Company** (USAC) is an independent, not-forprofit organization designated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
- USAC is responsible for administering the **USF** and its four programs.
- The USF exists to ensure that all people in the United States have access to quality and affordable connectivity services.



Overview: Who Makes the Rules?

- In the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress directed the FCC to establish the universal service programs.
- The FCC sets rules and policies for the USF programs and gives direction to USAC.
- USAC is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USF in accordance with FCC requirements.



Lifeline Program Overview

Lifeline Program Overview Lifeline Benefit

The Lifeline program is a federal benefit program that helps low-income households pay for phone or internet service.

• Eligible households can receive:

\$9.25 Standard Benefit

Up to \$9.25/month discount for internet or bundled services or up to \$5.25/month for phone service that meets the <u>minimum service</u> <u>standards</u>.

\$34.25 Tribal Benefit

Up to \$34.25/month discount for households on <u>qualifying Tribal lands</u>.

\$100 Link Up Benefit

A one-time discount of up to \$100 off the initial setup fees at addresses on qualifying Tribal lands receiving voice service from certain service providers.

\$9.25 Survivor Benefit

A \$9.25/month discount for phone, internet, or bundled services for up to 6 months for <u>survivors who qualify</u>.

• The Lifeline benefit is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

Lifeline Program Overview How to Qualify

There are **three ways** a household can qualify for the **standard Lifeline** benefit:

- <u>Household income</u> at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Participation in certain <u>federal assistance programs</u> such as SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Federal Housing Assistance, or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit.
- Participation in certain <u>Tribal assistance programs</u> (only available to households that live on Tribal lands) such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Head Start, Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

How to Apply for Lifeline

Lifeline Program

How to Apply

Option 1: Apply Online

- Visit <u>LifelineSupport.org</u> from any computer or mobile device to complete the electronic application and upload any required documentation.
- <u>Online Application</u>
 <u>Instructions</u> are available in 10 languages.

Option 2: Apply by Mail

- Fill out a <u>Lifeline Application</u> <u>Form (Spanish</u>).
 - <u>Paper Application</u>
 <u>Instructions</u> are available in 10 languages.
- Mail the application and supporting documentation to the Lifeline Support Center.
 - PO Box 1000

Horseheads, NY 14845

Option 3:

Apply with a Participating Company

- Ask your phone or internet company if they participate in Lifeline or use our <u>online tool</u> to find a participating company near you.
 - You may also be able to apply through the company's website if they make that option available.

How to Apply Access the Application

- The Lifeline application is available online at LifelineSupport.org.
- Select "**Apply Now**" to begin your application.



How to Apply Landing Page

- You will be redirected to the application's landing page.
- Select "**Get Started**" to begin the application.



What are the program benefits?

Standard Lifeline Benefit

Phone, internet, or bundled service monthly discount up to \$9.25 for eligible subscribers.

Enhanced Tribal Benefit

Phone, internet, or bundled service monthly discount up to \$34.25 for those eligible subscribers living on Tribal lands.

How can I qualify?

- You, or your child or dependent are enrolled in government programs like Medicaid, SNAP, or others, or,
- Based on your household income

Learn more about how to qualify.

Are you a survivor of domestic violence or human trafficking?

We provide additional safeguards to protect your information during the application process.

Learn more about how to qualify as a survivor.

How do you want us to check your identity?

We'll use this information to see if you're eligible. It won't affect your credit status.

Enter the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

Social Security Number (SSN)

How to Apply Personal Information (1/2)

- You will be asked to provide the following information:
 - Your first and last name as it appears on your official documentation.
 - Your date of birth.
 - The last 4 digits of your Social Security Number or your full Tribal ID Number.
 - Your home address.

Fill out your information

We will only use this information to see if you are eligible for a discount on your phone, internet, or bundled service.

What is your full legal nan The name you use on official documents, like y nickname.	ne? our Social Security Card or State ID. Not a	Number on Tribal ID Enter your Tribal Identification N	lumber.	
First Name	Middle Name (Optional)	Tribal ID Number		
Last Name(s) If you have multiple last names put them all into the box below.		What is your home a It cannot be a P.O. Box. Street Number and Name	ddress?	Apt, Unit, etc.
		123 Street Road		
What is your date of birth Month Day MM DD	Year	City Your City or Town	State Choose	Zip Code

How to Apply Personal Information (2/2)

- Confirm if you qualify for the benefit through yourself or through a child or dependent.
 - Select "No" if you qualify by yourself.
 - Select "Yes" if you qualify through your child or dependent.

Click "Next."

Do you qualify for Lifeline through your child or a dependent?

If you do not qualify on your own, you can sign up for Lifeline through your child or dependent if they participate in any of the qualifying programs.

No, I qualify by myself. O Yes, I qualify through my child or dependent.

Back



How to Apply Child or Dependent's Information

- If you qualify through a child or dependent, you will be asked to provide that person's information.
- Enter the required information and select "**Next**" to continue.

Fill out your child or dependent's information

We'll use this information to see if you are eligible through your child or dependent.

What is their full legal name?

The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security Card or State ID. Not a nickname.

First Name
Middle Name (Optional)

Last Name(s)

If they have multiple last names put them all into the box below.

Month	Day	Year	

How do you want us to check their identity?

We'll use this information to see if they're eligible. It won't affect their credit status.

)	Social	Security	Number	(SSN)
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Enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

Number on Tribal ID

Enter their Tribal Identification Number.

Tribal ID Number

Back

Next

How to Apply Create Account (1/2)

- Create a username and password to set up your account and sign in.
 - Your username can be an email address or a unique ID.
 - Your password must be a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.

Create Your Account

Making an account will let us keep your information safe. It will also let you save it and come back to it any time.

Choose your username.

Choose something you can easily remember like your email address or your name in some form. Save this information somewhere secure because you will need to use it again.

Username

Choose your password.

Make sure it is something you can remember. Save this information somewhere secure because you will need to use it again.

Password Requirements

- () At least 8 characters long
 - At least 1 capital letter
 At least 1 number (0-9)
- At least 1 special character (!@#\$%^&*)
- 🕛 No restricted phrases 🕐

Show Password

Password

Confirm Password

Type the same password again.

How to Apply

Create Account (2/2)

- Provide your contact information:
 - Email address (required)
 - Phone number (optional)
 - Mailing address (if it is different from your home address)
- Select your preferred language (optional).
 - English
 - Spanish
 - Both
- Agree to the "**Terms & Conditions**" by checking the box, and then select "**Submit**".

example@email.com	nate email.
What is your phone nu	umber? (Optional)
By providing a phone number, via artificial or prerecorded voi your Lifeline benefit. For text m messages.	you consent to letting USAC contact you at that phone number ce message or text for important reminders and updates about ressages, message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to end
Do you want to provid	le a mailing address? (Optional) ⑦
Yes, my mailing address is	s different than home address
What is your prof	ierred language? (Optional)
We will send you outreach abo	ut the status of your application in the language(s) you select.
O English	
<u> </u>	
C Español	
O Español O Both	
C Español	





Questions?

How to Apply Account Homepage

 Select "Start Lifeline Application" on your account homepage to begin your application.

Welcome

The National Verifier is a tool to help you confirm your eligibility for the Lifeline program.

My Profile			
Get Started	Need Help?		

Start or return to your Lifeline application

To start an application for Lifeline, select Start Lifeline Application.

Do you already have an application?

You can check the My Applications table below to see if you already have an application. To return to an incomplete application, select the Return to Application button. If you need to edit an application, please review the Need Help section.

My Applications

Here are all your applications from the last 180 days. You can start a new application when your last one expires.

Application Type Application ID Application Created Expiration Da	Return to Application	Start Lifeline	Application	
	Application Type	Application ID	Application Created	Expiration Dat

How to Apply Qualifying Programs

- Select **all** the programs you participate in to confirm how you qualify.
 - If you do not participate in any of the listed programs, you can also qualify based on income or through a child or dependent.
- Select "Next".

Confirm your program participation

Which of the following programs do you participate in?
Check all that apply.
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps 🕐
Medicaid
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Housing Assistance ③
Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs
Tribal Specific Program (only choose if you live on Tribal lands)
I don't think I participate in any of these programs, I may qualify through my income .
I don't participate in any of these, but I have a child or dependent who may. ?
Which Tribal specific programs do you have? (Check all that apply.)
Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF)
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
Head Start (only if your household meets the Head Start income qualifying standard)



How to Apply Review Your Information

- Review the information you provided.
 - If you need to make corrections, select "Edit".
- Review the consent statement and check the box to confirm the information you provided can be used to check if you qualify for Lifeline.
- Select "Submit" to continue.

Review Your Information

Before we check if you qualify for Lifeline, make sure your information is right.

Double check the information below.

Full Legal Name: Date of Birth:	Cherry Blossom March 18, 2000	🗹 Edit
Tribal ID Number:	55555555	
Address:	123 Cherry Blossom St Cherry, AK 11111	

The information you gave us will be used to check if you qualify for Lifeline. Please confirm that it is okay.

By checking this box you are consenting that all of the information you are providing may be collected, used, shared, and retained for the purposes of applying for and/or receiving Lifeline.

Back



How to Apply Agreement Page

- Review each statement and initial each box to consent to the information.
- Sign the agreement electronically with your first and last name.
- Click "**Submit**" to complete the application.

Agreement All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true Initial and correct to the best of my knowledge. You are almost done qualifying. Please initial next to each statement and sign this form to finish the process. I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get Initial I agree, under penalty of perjury, to the following Lifeline Program benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, statements: jail time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program. I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get Initial benefits from the government program(s) listed on this form or my annual household income is 135% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Federal Poverty Guidelines table on My service provider may have to check whether I still gualify at any time. Initial this form). If I need to recertify my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respond by the deadline or I will be removed from the Lifeline Program Initial Lagree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address and my Lifeline benefit will stop. within 30 days. If I am seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, Initial I live on Tribal lands, as defined in 54.400(e) of the Lifeline rules. (?) I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do Initial not qualify for Lifeline anymore, including: 1. I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a government program or income anymore. 2. Either I or someone in my household gets more than one Lifeline benefit (including, more than one Lifeline broadband internet service, more than one Lifeline telephone service, or both Lifeline telephone and Lifeline broadband internet services) **Your Signature** Initial I know that my household can only get one Lifeline benefit and, to the Type your full legal name below best of my knowledge, my household is not getting more than one Cherry Blossom Lifeline benefit. (?) I agree that all of the information I provide on this form may be collected, I understand this is a digital signature, and is the same as if I signed my name with a Initial used, shared, and retained for the purposes of applying for and /or pen. receiving the Lifeline Program benefit. I understand that if this information is not provided to the Lifeline Program Administrator, I will not be able to get Lifeline benefits. If the laws of my state or Tribal government require it, I agree that the state or Tribal government may Back Submit share information about my benefits for a qualifying program with the Lifeline Program Administrator. The information shared by the state or Tribal government will be used only to help find out if I can get a Lifeline Program benefit.

How to Apply Agreement Page - Approved

- Once the application has been reviewed, you will be informed if you have been approved for Lifeline.
 - You will need to follow the instructions and sign up with a participating phone or internet company by the deadline provided on the application.
- To check if you qualify for the enhanced Tribal benefit, select "Do you live on Tribal lands".

Contact a phone or internet company to get your benefit

You're approved to get your Lifeline benefit. **Sign up by June 16, 2025**.

What to do next

If you already have service

Contact your phone or internet company and say, "I have been approved for the Lifeline program and would like to apply it to my service."

If you don't currently have service

Find a phone or internet company in your area and say, "I have been approved for the Lifeline program and would like to sign up for service."



Need to find an internet company near you?

How to Apply Confirm Tribal Benefit

- Select "Confirm Tribal Qualification".
 - USAC will verify if your address is on qualifying Tribal lands. If it is, you will receive a monthly benefit of up to \$34.25.

Live on Tribal lands? Press the button below to see if you qualified for Tribal benefits:

	Confirm Tribal Qualification	
Confirmed Tribal:	Yes	
Latitude:	39.7703351517527	
Longitude:	-103.2620242403591	
Coordinate Source:	Automated	

Need help? Call the Lifeline Support Center at 1-800-234-9473

How to Apply Find a Company

- Use the <u>Companies Near Me</u> tool to find a phone or internet company that participates in Lifeline.
- To find a company,
 - Enter your ZIP code or city and state.
 - Select Lifeline under Program.
 - Select "Search" to view a list of your local providers.

Companies Near Me

This tool can help you find companies in your area that offer Lifeline, which can reduce the cost of your phone or internet service by providing a monthly discount.

If you previously received the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefit, you should check to see if you qualify for Lifeline. Due to a lack of additional funding from Congress, the ACP stopped accepting new applications as of February 7, 2024. The last fully funded month of the ACP was April 2024, and the program has ended for now.

Find a Company	
Enter Your Zip Code	Enter Your City and State
OR	
Example: 12345	
Select a Program:	
Search Clar Results	

Poll

Providing Additional Information

Outcome of Eligibility Check

- If we could not verify your eligibility, you will receive specific information on what could not be confirmed and what additional documentation you need to provide.
- To update your application, select "**Next**".

We need more information to see if you qualify

A few things happened:

- Someone at your address already gets the Lifeline benefit; please answer some questions about your living situation to find out if you're eligible.
- We couldn't verify who you are; please attach a photo of a document that shows your identity information.
- We couldn't confirm your eligibility; please attach a photo of a document that shows you (or your child or dependent) participate in a government assistance program or your income.

What to do next

You need to provide additional information in order to qualify for the Lifeline program.



Confirm Address

- You may be asked to confirm your address by clicking on the map and moving the pin to your address.
- The latitude and longitude coordinates will automatically be filled in once the pin is placed.

Find your address on the map below

We couldn't find your address, please show us where you live on the map.





Latitude	Longitude		

Having trouble with the map?

To show us where you live, click on the map to move the pin to your address. The pin will automatically fill in the longitude and latitude coordinates of your address.



Your coordinates will automatically be filled in once the pin is placed. You can also find your latitude and longitude coordinates using <u>Google Maps</u>. If you need help please reference the <u>instructions</u> for using Google Maps.

How can I	edit my	information	or add a ch	hild or depen	dent? -	+

Need Help? Contact the Lifeline Support Center at (800) 234-9473 or at LifelineSupport@usac.org





Proof of Eligibility

- If your eligibility cannot be confirmed, you can select one of two options:
 - You can provide income documentation (three consecutive months of pay stubs, last year's tax return, or a social security statement),
 - Or you can provide documentation showing you participate in a qualifying program (e.g., Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, SNAP, or Medicaid).

Share more information to see if you qualify

With your help, we can confirm you qualify in a few more steps.

Do you have a document that shows your income?

- Yes. I have a document such as pay stubs, last year's tax return, or a social security statement.
- No. But I have a document that shows I (or my child or dependent) participate in a program such as SNAP or Medicaid.

Back

Next

Providing Additional Information Proof of Eligibility

- Upload a document to show your program participation that includes:
 - Your name or your child or dependent's name.
 - The name of the program.
 - The name of the issuing agency.
 - An issue date within the last 12 months or expiration date in the future.

Document Requirements

Provide a document that includes:

- Your name, or your dependent's name
- The name of the qualifying program, such as SNAP
- The name of the government, Tribal entity, or program administrator that issued the document
- An issue date within the last 12 months or expiration date (in the future)

Document examples:

- Benefit award letter
- Statement of benefits
- Benefit verification letter
- Screenshot of online benefits portal

How to add your photo or scanned copy

Please attach a picture or scanned copy of your document. Files must be less than 10 MB and one of the following file types: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, or gif.

- Make sure your image is not blurry
- · Make sure your document is not cut off and we can see all four sides
- Make sure you have good lighting



You will have until 9/6/2024 to complete this section so we can determine whether you qualify for Lifeline. If you do not complete this by then, you will need to come back to this site and fill this form out again.

Providing Additional Information Proof of Eligibility

- If you qualify based on your income, you will be asked to list how many people live in your household.
- A household consists of people who share income and expenses (e.g., a married couple who live together are one household with two people).
- Next, you will be asked a few questions about your annual income.

Share more information to see if you qualify based on income

You may qualify if your annual income meets certain requirements.

How many people live in your household? [®] Number of people in my household:	
Back	Next

Providing Additional Information Proof of Eligibility Share pro

- The document you upload to show your income must include:
 - Your name or your child or dependent's name.
 - Your annual income.
 - An issue date within the last 12 months.

Share proof of your income

Your document must include:

- 1. Your name, or your child or dependent's name
- 2. Your annual income is at or below \$25,394
- ${\bf 3.}\,$ An issue date within the last 12 months

Here are common examples

- Your prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return
- Current annual income statement from your job
- A Social Security statement of benefits
- An unemployment or worker's compensation statement of benefits
- A Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- A divorce decree or child support award
- An official document with a date in the last 12 months showing your annual income. Or
 official documents showing your income for three months in a row. This could be pay
 stubs that are dated within the last 12 months.

How to add your photo or scanned copy

Please attach a picture or scanned copy of your document. Files must be less than 10 MB and one of the following file types: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, or gif.

- Make sure your image is not blurry
- Make sure your document is not cut off and we can see all four sides
- Make sure you have good lighting

Choose a file

Providing Additional Information Proof of Tribal ID Number

- You may be required to upload documents to verify your Tribal ID Number.
- Documents must include:
 - Your first and last name.
 - Your Tribal ID Number.

Share proof of your Tribal ID Number

Your document must include:

Your first and last name:

Your Tribal ID Number:

Here are common examples:

- A Tribal ID card
- An official certificate or letter from your tribe's enrollment office
- A Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB)

Common mistakes:

 Some CDIB cards do not include the required information. If yours does not, then it will not be accepted.

How to add your photo or scanned copy

Please attach a picture or scanned copy of your document. Files must be less than 10 MB and one of the following file types: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, or gif.

- Make sure your image is not blurry
- Make sure your document is not cut off and we can see all four sides
- Make sure you have good lighting

Providing Additional Information Proof of SSN Share p

- You may be required to upload documents to verify your Social Security Number (SSN).
- Documents must include:
 - Your first and last name.
 - The last 4 digits of your SSN.

Share proof of your Social Security number (SSN)

Your document must include:

- Your first and last name: Apple Strudel
- The last four digits of your Social Security number: xxx-xx-1234

Here are common examples:

- A Social Security Card
- A Social Security Benefit Statement (SSA-1099)
- A W-2 from the last 2 years
- A prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return

How to add your photo or scanned copy

Please attach a picture or scanned copy of your document. Files must be less than 10 MB and one of the following file types; jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, or gif.

- Make sure your image is not blurry
- Make sure your document is not cut off and we can see all four sides
- Make sure you have good lighting





Proof of Date of Birth

- You may need to upload documents to verify your date of birth.
- These documents must include your:
 - First and last name.
 - Date of birth.

Share proof of your date of birth

Your document must include:

- Your first and last name:
- Apple Strudel
- Your date of birth: March 18, 2000

Here are common examples:

- A Driver's license that is not expired
- A Passport that is not expired
- A birth certificate
- A U.S. governement, military, state or Tribal issued ID that includes your date of birth and is not expired
- A Certificate of Naturalization, Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, or Consular Matricular ID

How to add your photo or scanned copy

Please attach a picture or scanned copy of your document. Files must be less than 10 MB and one of the following file types: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, or gif.

- Make sure your image is not blurry
- · Make sure your document is not cut off and we can see all four sides
- Make sure you have good lighting

Choose a file

Providing Additional Information Proof of Life Share pro

- You may be asked to upload documents that confirm you are alive.
- Documentation must include:
 - Your first and last name.
 - An issue date within the last three months.

Share proof of life

Your document must include:

- Your first and last name:
- Apple Strudel
- An issue date within the last three months

Here are common examples:

- A current utility bill
- A paystub
- A mortgage or lease statement
- A retirement or pension statement of benefits
- A notarized letter that confirms your identity and that you are alive

How to add your photo or scanned copy

Please attach a picture or scanned copy of your document. Files must be less than 10 MB and one of the following file types: jpg, jpeg, png, pdf, or gif.

- Make sure your image is not blurry
- Make sure your document is not cut off and we can see all four sides
- Make sure you have good lighting

Choose file

Document Review

- If you are required to submit more documentation, you will receive a message that USAC is reviewing your documents.
- Once the review is complete, you will receive an email or mail notification about the status of your application.
 - If your information cannot be confirmed, you will receive instructions on how to submit additional documentation.
 - If your application is approved, you will receive instructions on what to do next to start receiving your benefit.

We are reviewing your documents

It generally takes about 15 minutes, but could be up to 2 days.

We'll email you when our review is complete. You can check the status of your application at any time on your account homepage.

Application ID:

Q97155-22865

Need Help? Contact the Lifeline Support Center at (800) 234-9473 or at LifelineSupport@usac.org

Questions?

Resources

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Resources

- Visit <u>LifelineSupport.org</u> for general information on Lifeline and to apply.
 - Review the <u>Tribal Benefit</u> page.
 - View the <u>Tribal Flyer</u> for an overview of the Enhanced Tribal Benefit.
- For questions, assistance, and general application inquiries, email <u>LifelineSupport@usac.org</u> and cc our Tribal Liaison at <u>TribalLiaison@usac.org</u>.
 - The Lifeline Customer Support Center can also be reached at (800) 234-9473 and is available seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET.

Thank You!

