

#### Housekeeping

- Audio is available through your computer's speakers
- The audience will remain on mute
- Enter questions at any time using the "Questions" box
  - There is a large audience signed in today. We will accept as many questions as possible!
- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar
- Copy of the slide deck in the "handouts" section of webinar panel

#### **Today's Presenters**



**Catie Miller** 



**Delante Cherry** 



**Linnita Hosten** 



**Leah Sorini** 

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Lifeline Overview
- 2. What is the National Verifier
- 3. State Agency Access: How to Sign Up
- 4. How to Use the National Verifier
- 5. National Verifier: Service Provider Portal
- 6. How to Resolve Errors
- 7. How to Check Application Status
- 8. How to Get Help

# Available for Public Use Overview

#### **Lifeline Overview**



- Lifeline offers a **monthly discount** on phone or internet service.
- All eligible consumers can receive a discount of up to \$9.25 per month.
- Consumers who live on qualifying Tribal lands can receive enhanced support of up to \$34.25 per month.
- Out of the seven million households that participate in Lifeline, about 274,000 of those receive enhanced support.

## **Lifeline Overview**Application Process



Consumer completes Lifeline application





Consumer provides
supporting
documentation for
any errors that the
application received





Consumer qualifies for Lifeline and chooses Lifeline company





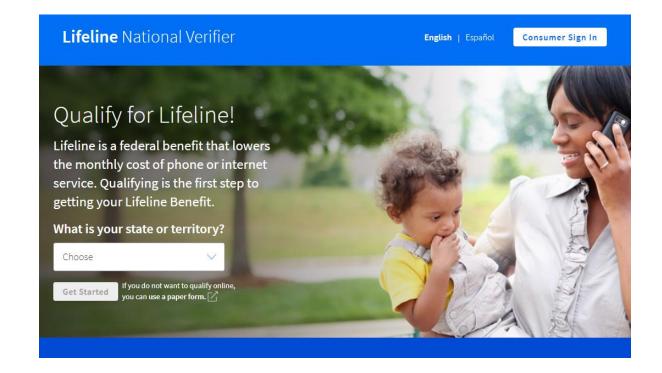
Consumer informs
Lifeline company of
qualification status
to enroll in the
program



#### What is the National Verifier

The National Verifier (NV) is the Lifeline program's application system that streamlines the application process across all states and territories.

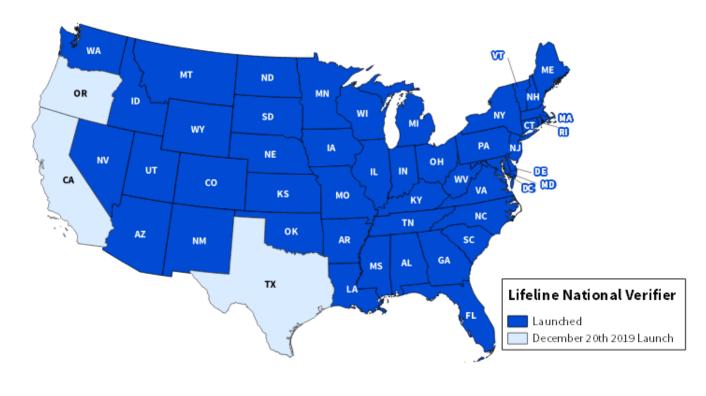
- The National Verifier checks consumer eligibility in all states except California, Texas, and Oregon.
- After a consumer qualifies for Lifeline, their service provider will be able to enroll them in the Program through the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD).



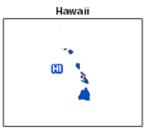
#### **What is the National Verifier**

- After eligibility is determined by the NV, a consumer selects a Lifelineeligible phone or internet service in order to enroll in the program and receive service.
- The map shows all states where the NV has launched.

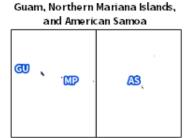
<sup>\*</sup> In Texas, Oregon, and California, the NV relies on existing state eligibility processes.











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#### What is the National Verifier

#### Temporary Changes to the Lifeline Program Due to COVID-19

In response to the pandemic, the FCC released a series of waivers suspending the following rules and processes through **August 31**:

- Recertification
- Reverification
- General de-enrollment requirements, except de-enrollment at the user's request
- Usage requirements
- USAC program integrity reviews
- Requirement to submit 3 consecutive months of income documentation
- Certain documentation submission requirements for consumers in rural areas on Tribal lands

## What is the National Verifier Three Ways to Use the System



**Apply Online** 



**Apply by Mail** 



Apply with a Service Provider

## What is the National Verifier Apply Online



The consumer visits <u>CheckLifeline.org</u>
from any computer or mobile device
to create an account and complete
the electronic application.



 The consumer is found qualified to participate in the program by the National Verifier.



The consumer contacts a service provider to enroll in Lifeline.

## What is the National Verifier Apply by Mail



 The consumer fills out the National Verifier <u>Lifeline Application Form</u>, <u>One-Per-Household Worksheet</u>, and provides <u>proof of program eligibility</u> and proof of identity.



 The consumer mails in their documentation to the Lifeline Support Center or delivers it to their service provider.



 USAC will notify them by email or mail that they qualify for Lifeline. The consumer then enrolls with their service provider.

## What is the National Verifier Apply with a Service Provider



- The consumer visits a service provider store or website.\*
- \* Some service providers offer an online Lifeline application.



- The service provider will collect the consumer's information via the National Verifier service provider portal or service provider website.
- Once the consumer is qualified, the service provider will be able to enroll them in Lifeline.



 The consumer can find service providers in their area using the "<u>Companies Near Me</u>" tool on USAC's website.



#### How to Sign Up: National Verifier

- State agencies may now request access to the National Verifier.
- With a National Verifier account you can help consumers:
  - Submit online applications
  - Upload consumer documentation to resolve application errors
  - Track the status of their applications

#### How to Sign Up: National Verifier

- Those that may receive a National Verifier account include:
  - State public utility commissions,
  - State regulatory commissions,
  - State departments of health and human services,
  - Social service agencies,
  - Agents of such entities, as is consistent with applicable federal and state laws, and
  - Other authorized third parties that have been approved by USAC for purposes of assisting individuals in applying for Lifeline support.

#### How to Sign Up: State Access Request Form

- Complete the State Access Request Form
- 2. Register for a Representative ID (Rep ID) in the Representative Accountability Database (RAD)
- 3. Send the form and your new Rep ID to <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u> with the subject line "State User Access Request"

#### How to Sign Up: State Access Request Form

- Fill Out a <u>State Access Request</u> Form
- Select "State-NV" as the User Type

#### State Agency User

State Agency Name:				
UserName:		Title:		
Street Address:				
	City:		State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:		Email:		
UserType:	■State-Operations	■State-Er	nhanced	☐State-NV
	I have read this State Access Request and understand my obligations.			
User Signature:		Date:		

How to Sign Up: Get a Rep ID

The Representative Accountability Database (RAD) was created to allow USAC to track a representative's transactions in NLAD and the National Verifier.

- Representatives register for a Representative ID (Rep ID) through RAD
- USAC will use the data gathered to improve program integrity by monitoring for potentially fraudulent activity

How to Sign Up: RAD Registration



- Registration is performed directly by the state user through RAD
- The user self-registers at <u>LifelineRAD.org</u>

#### How to Sign Up: RAD Registration



State users must submit the following:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Last four digits of their social security number (SSN4)\*
- Physical address
- Email address

For more information, please check our resources page <u>here</u>.

<sup>\*</sup>SSN4 is **optional**; however users that opt out of submitting their SSN4 will have to submit documentation to verify their identity, which **will** prolong the registration process.

#### How to Sign Up: RAD Registration

- Send the form and your new Rep ID to <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u> with the subject line "State User Access Request"
  - USAC will process your application by:
    - Reviewing the request
    - Granting access as appropriate
    - Assigning the user account
    - Notifying the state user via email once their access has been granted
    - Working with the user to link their Rep ID to their State-NV account and set them up in the system

### **Questions?**

## Available for Public Use **How to Use the National Verifier**

## How to Use the National Verifier The Application Process: Path 1

#### Input

Enter consumer data
– name, SSN4, etc. –
into the National Verifier;
consumer must initial
certifications



National Verifier searches for consumer in Federal/State databases and NLAD



If consumer eligibility record is found, consumer is approved



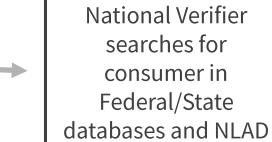
Service provider uses the National Verifier's eligibility approval to enroll the consumer

## How to Use the National Verifier The Application Process: Path 2

#### Input

Enter consumer data

– name, SSN4, etc. –
into the National
Verifier; consumer
must initial
certifications



If consumer eligibility record is not found, documentation is required

National Verifier agent reviews documents

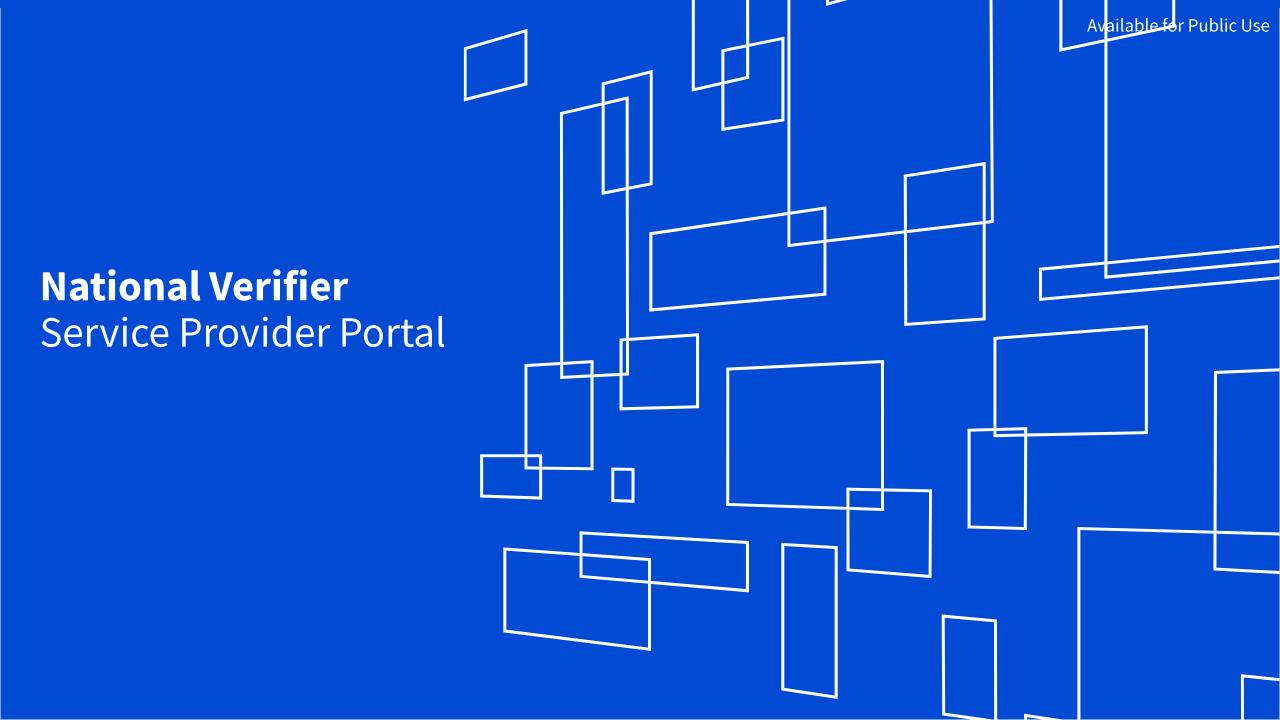
1

Upload requested documentation

If documentation is acceptable, consumer is approved

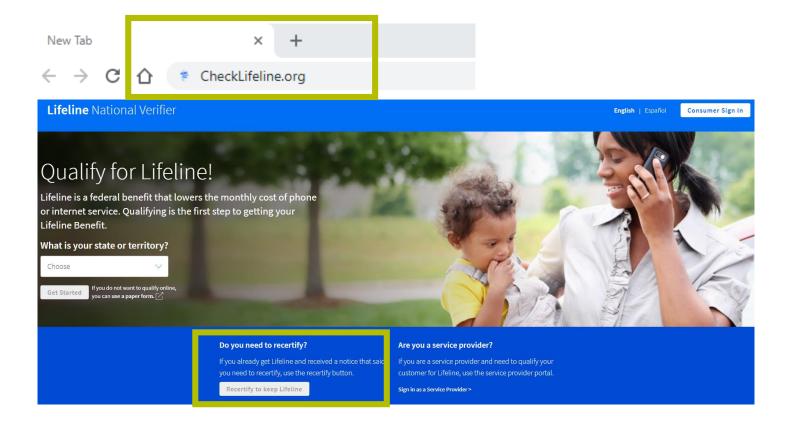
Result

Service provider
uses the National
Verifier's eligibility
approval to enroll
the consumer



## **National Verifier**Service Provider Portal

Service providers access the National Verifier from this webpage by visiting <a href="CheckLifeline.org">CheckLifeline.org</a>:

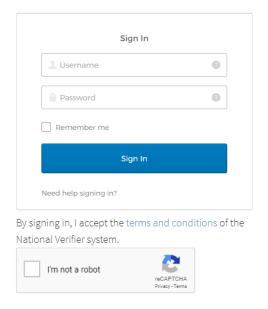


## **National Verifier**Service Provider Portal

To access the service provider portal, you need to:

 Sign in to the National Verifier using your new State-NV account

#### Sign In To Your Account



#### Need Help Accessing Your Existing Account?

Contact your company administrator.

#### Don't Have an Account?

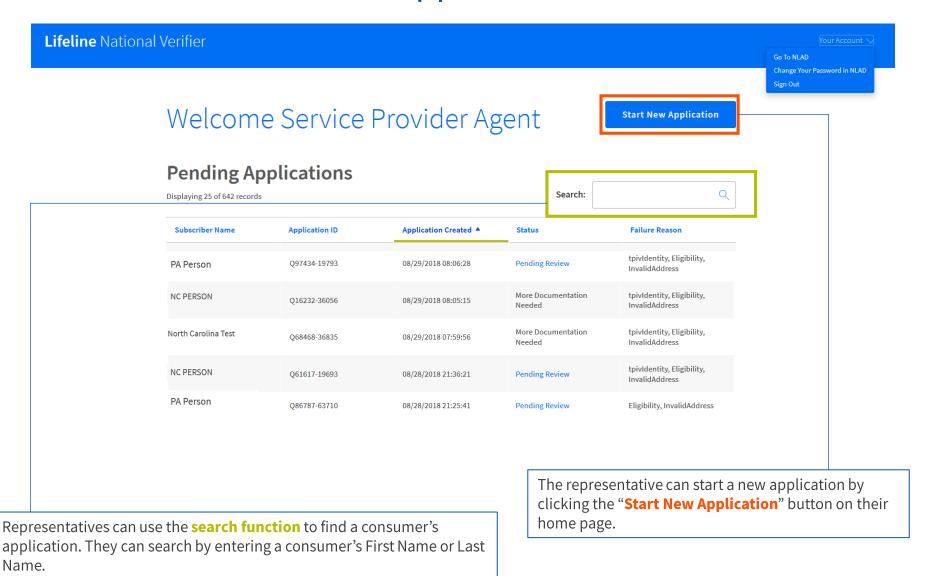
If you have an account in the National Lifeline Accountability

Database (NLAD), sign in using those credentials. Otherwise, contact
your company administrator.

#### Print an application to mail in?

If you want to fill out a form on paper, you can print a paper form to mail in.

#### Service Provider Portal: Start New Application

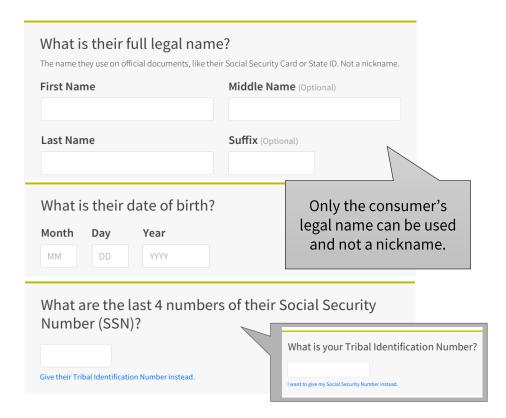


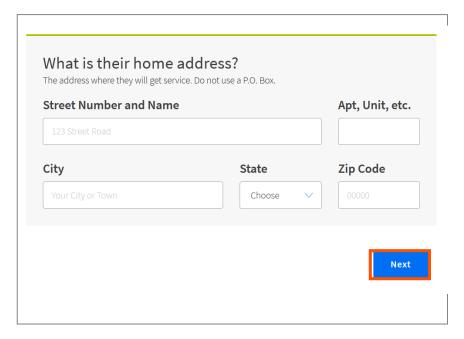
#### Service Provider Portal: Enter Subscriber's Information

The representative will ask the consumer for their information in order to enter it into the required fields.

#### Subscriber's Information

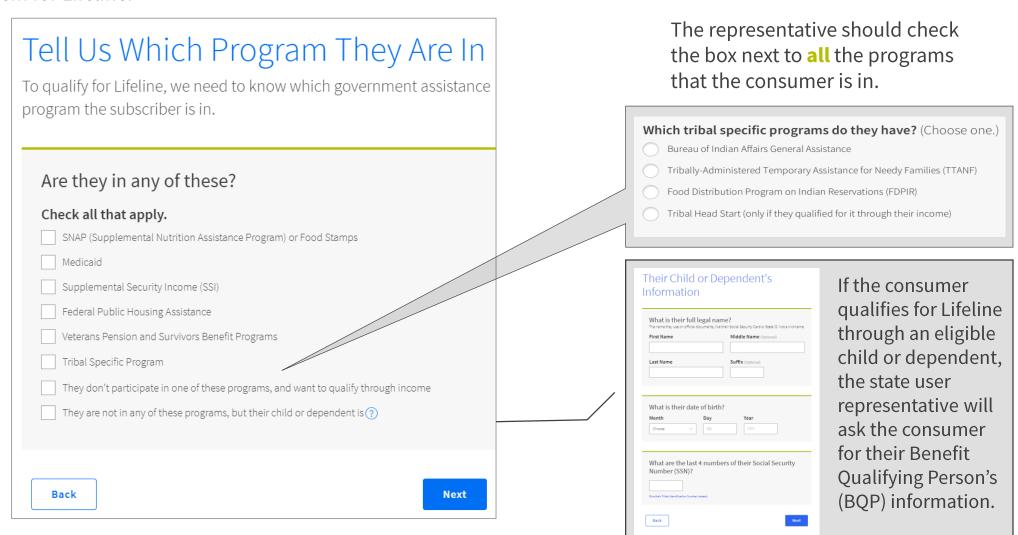
We will use this information to find out if the subscriber qualifies for the Lifeline Program.



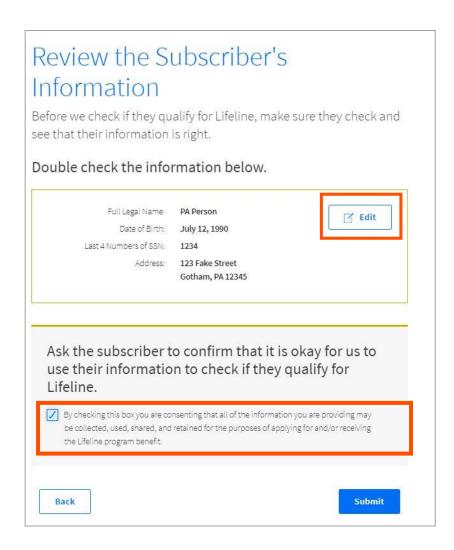


#### Service Provider Portal: Select Qualifying Program(s)

The state user representative will then select all programs that the consumer is already participating in that qualify them for Lifeline.



#### Service Provider Portal: Review Information & Submit



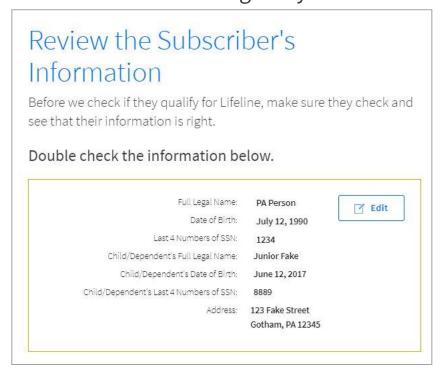
The state user representative and consumer have the opportunity to review the consumer's information, and can edit it if necessary, prior to submitting the consumer's information.

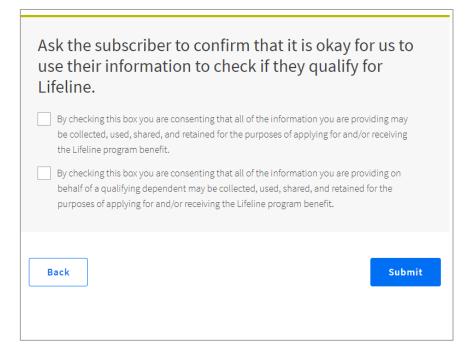
Before the representative can click "Submit", they must ask and obtain the consumer's permission for the agreement statement.

The consumer should check the consent check box.

#### Service Provider Portal: Review Information (with BQP)

**Note**: For subscribers applying through a **Benefit Qualifying Person (BQP)**, the system will ask both the subscriber and the BQP to verify their information and to confirm that it's ok to use this information to check for eligibility.





# **National Verifier**

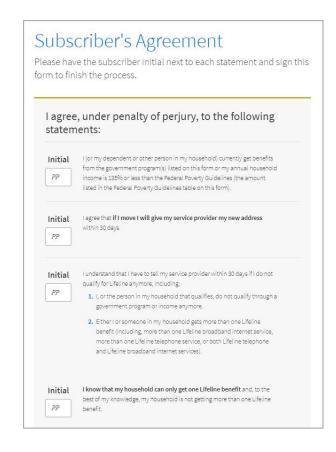
# Service Provider Portal: Subscriber's Agreement

Next, the consumer's agreement page will show. The representative **must instruct the consumer to read and initial** next to the following consent statements.

The representative **cannot** certify and consent on the subscriber's behalf.

The subscriber can only enter the two initials of their First and Last Name.

The benefit recipient must be the one to initial with their initials, even when applying through a Benefit Qualifying Person (BQP).





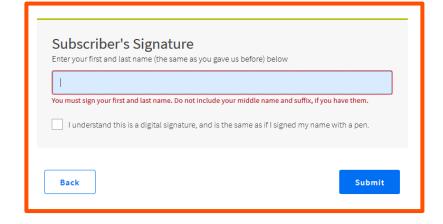
# **National Verifier**

# Service Provider Portal: Subscriber's Agreement



After the consumer initials next to the individual consent statements, they must type their name in order to sign the Application Form.

Their typed name will act as an e-signature.



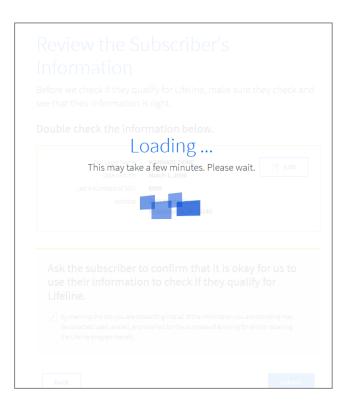
The system will limit the subscriber to entering their **First and Last**Name. Otherwise, the system will display an error message.

<u>!</u>

It is critical that the consumer understands and consents to the information on this tab. A person assisting a consumer to submit their Application Form cannot initial or enter the e-signature for the consumer.

## **National Verifier**

# Service Provider Portal: NLAD & State/Fed Data Sources Check



NV will make the following verifications:

### NLAD Checks

- Verify a consumer's address through the USPS Address Management Service (AMS)
- Verify if a consumer is already enrolled or if someone at their address is already enrolled
- Verify a consumer's identity through third party identity verification (TPIV)

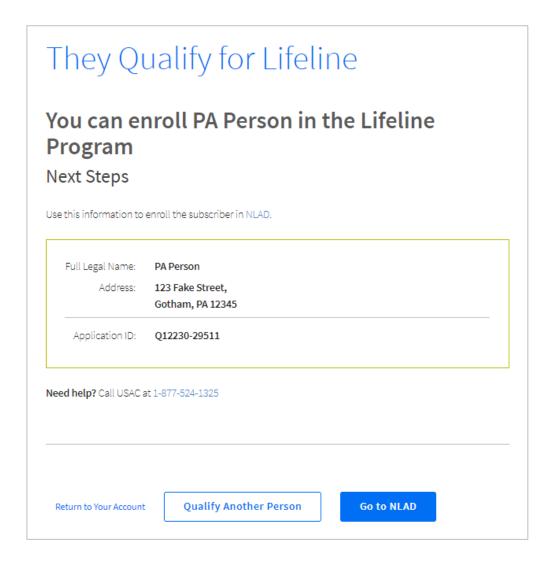
### Federal Data Sources

- HUD
- Medicaid

### State Data Sources

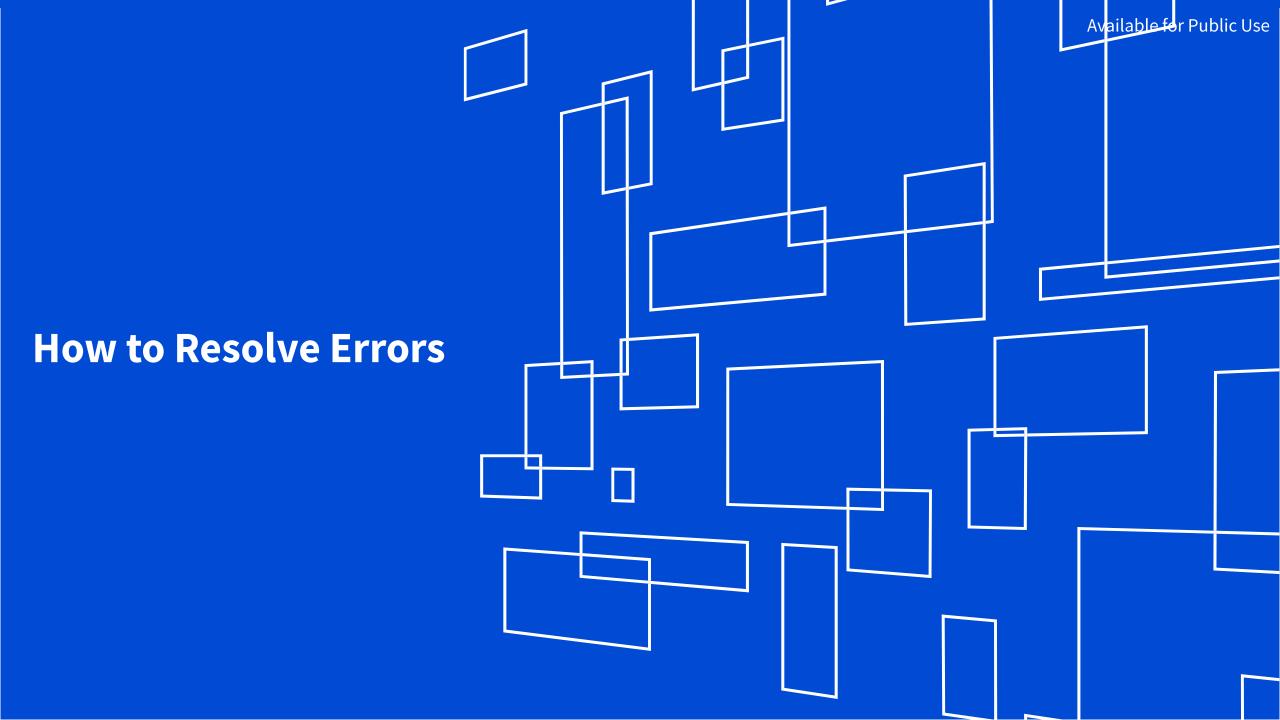
All available state data sources

# **National Verifier** Service Provider Portal: Happy Path



 The consumer can now enroll in Lifeline with a service provider.

# **Questions?**



# Path 2 – Documentation Required

### Input

Enter consumer data

– name, SSN4, etc. –
into the National
Verifier; consumer
must initial
certifications

National Verifier
searches for
consumer in
Federal/State
databases and NLAD

If consumer eligibility record is not found, documentation is required

National Verifier agent reviews documents

1

Upload requested documentation

If documentation is acceptable, consumer is approved

Result

Service provider uses the National Verifier's eligibility approval to enroll the consumer

<sup>\*</sup> If the documentation submitted is not acceptable, we will notify the consumer and ask them to resubmit.

# Types of Error Resolution

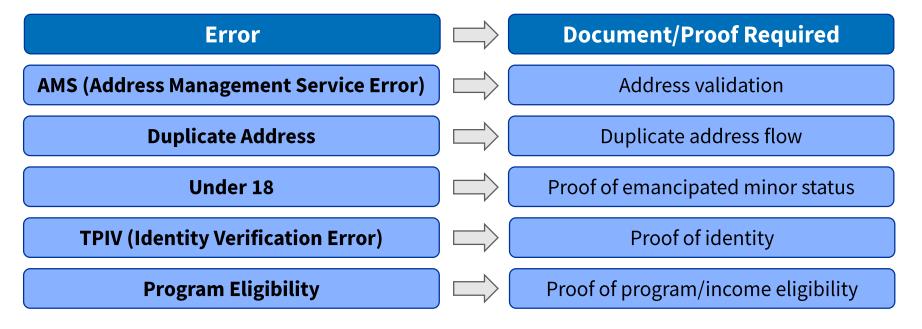
- When we need more information from a consumer, you will get an "error"
- There are several types of "errors"
  - The first set of errors can be resolved directly in the portal or NLAD
    - (i.e., address or transfer of benefit)
  - The second set of errors requires that documents be uploaded into the system for review.

# **Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a State**

Consumer Received Error with One or More NLAD or State/Fed Checks

Eligibility Status: "More Documentation Needed"

If the consumer receives an eligibility status of More Documentation Needed, they must upload documentation to dispute any of the following errors they may have received. For most of the following errors, the Lifeline Support Center will conduct a manual review of the submitted documentation.

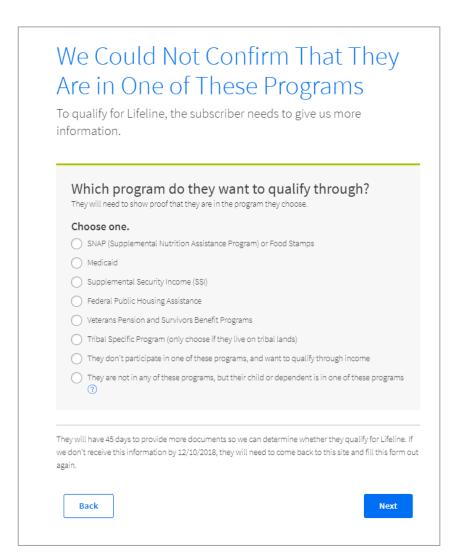


**Note:** A state user can help a consumer submit documentation based on information available in their Service Provider Portal account.

# **Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a State**

## Consumer Received Error with One or More NLAD or State/Fed Checks

If the consumer is not found in the applicable data source, the following screen will display.



State Users will see this screen, which states that more information is needed from the consumer.

If the consumer is not found in the applicable data source, they will need to choose a qualifying program and upload corresponding documents.

# **Types of Errors** How to Resolve Them

Resolve Errors – Address Error

# We Didn't Recognize Your Address

The U.S. Postal Service could not find the address you gave us.

Show us that your address is right.

This is the information you gave us.

The consumer or agent can resolve this right in the portal, by dropping a pin on where the consumer resides/sleeps at night.

This is especially important for descriptive addresses.

We need to confirm where you live on the map below. Please double click on the map or use the (+) button on the top left to zoom in on the map. You can drop a pin once you have found your address on the map.



Note: If you have not zoomed in far enough on the map, you will not be able to drop a pin on the map.

### Latitude

38.92529

### Longitude

-77.01403

Back

Next

# Resolve Errors – Program Eligibility

The consumer must choose which of the **eligible programs** they participate in, if any. If the consumer is part of multiple programs, they **only need to choose one** that they have documentation for.

### We Need More Information

To qualify for Lifeline, you need to show that you qualify through a government assistance program or through your income.

# Are you in any of these? You will need to show proof that you are in the program you choose. Choose one. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps Medicaid Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Public Housing Assistance Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs Tribal Specific Program (only choose if you live on tribal lands) I don't participate in one of these programs, I want to qualify through my income. I am not in any of these, but my child or dependent is in one of these programs. ?

### Show That They Are in SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) used to be called Food Stamps.

Their state might use a different name for SNAP. Look it up on this list of SNAP names by state.

### We need to see a copy of one of these:

NOTE: All documents must be issued by the state or federal government.

- Approval letter that shows:
  - Name of the participant
  - Eligibility dates
- Benefits statement or letter that shows:
  - Name of the participant
  - Eligibility dates
- Verification letter that shows:
  - Name of the participant

Give us your documents.

Upload the file here

Choose file

Back

Next

# Resolve Errors – Program Eligibility

### We Need More Information

To qualify for Lifeline, you need to show that you qualify through a government assistance program or through your income.

Are	e you in any of these?
Youv	will need to show proof that you are in the program you choose.
Cho	oose one.
	SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps
	Medicaid
	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
	Federal Public Housing Assistance
	Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs
	Tribal Specific Program (only choose if you live on tribal lands)
	I don't participate in one of these programs, I want to qualify through my income.
	I am not in any of these, but my child or dependent is in one of these programs. ?

If a consumer is eligible through a Tribal program, they must select the specific program and provide supporting documentation (i.e., Tribal letter) as proof. Which tribal specific programs do you have? (Choose one.) Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF) Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) Tribal Head Start (only if you qualified for it through your income) Back Next

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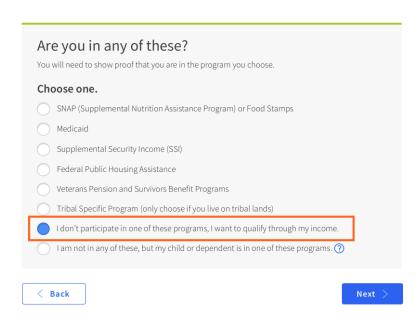
33

# **Apply Online**

# Resolve Errors – Income Eligibility

### We Need More Information

To qualify for Lifeline, you need to show that you qualify through a government assistance program or through your income.



# Show That You Qualify Through Your Income

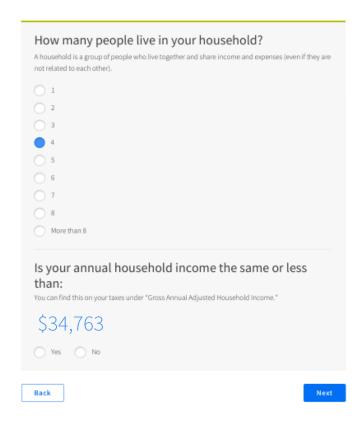
A household is a group not related to each oth	of people who live togethe er).	r and share income ar	id expenses (even if the
O 1			
O 2			
○ 3			
O 4			
O 5			
O 6			
O 7			
8			
More than 8			

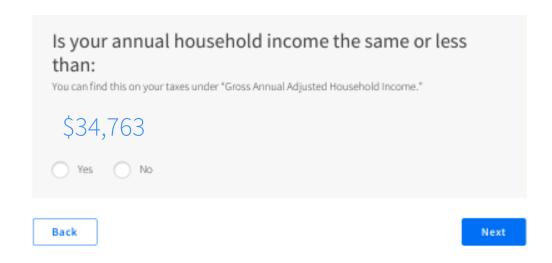
If the consumer qualifies based on their income, they can still submit documentation to prove their eligibility. But first, the consumer will need to answer a few questions. The first asks for the number of people who live in the consumer's household.

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# Resolve Errors – Income Eligibility

# Show That You Qualify Through Your Income





Once the consumer answers how many people live in their household, they will need to confirm whether their annual income is the same or less than the number that displays by-selecting "Yes" or "No."

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# Resolve Errors – Income Eligibility

**If the consumer chose "Yes,"** they must submit proof of their income eligibility.

Show That You Qualify Through Your Income

### We need to see one of these:

- . The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return
- . 3 pay stubs in a row (or a current income statement from your employer)
- . Social Security statement of benefits
- · Veterans Administration statement of benefits
- . Unemployment or Workers' Compensation statement of benefits.
- · Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance
- Divorce decree
- Child support award, or
- . Other official document containing income information

Give us your documents.

Upload the file here

Choose file

If the consumer chose "No," they will not be able to prove eligibility through their income. They still have the option to prove their eligibility through a qualifying government program.

### You Do Not Qualify for Lifeline Based on Your Household Income

With a household of [4] you must have an annual income of less than or the same as [\$33,210].

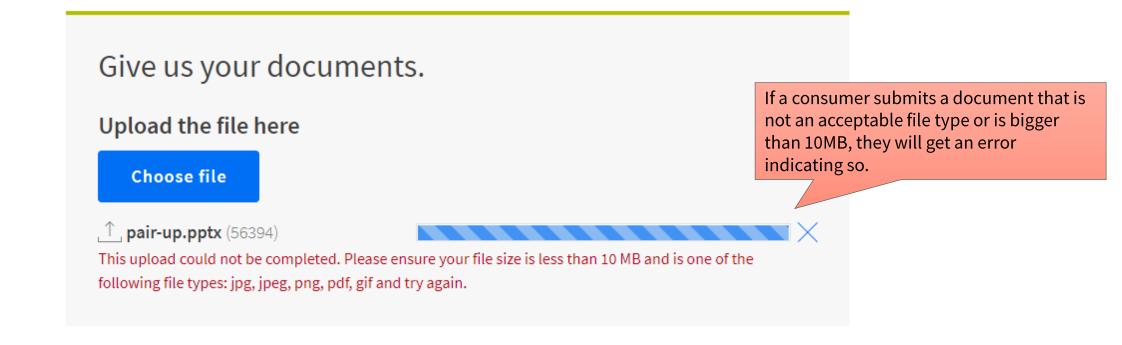
Do you participate in a government assistance program?

Such as SNAP (Food Stamps), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program, or a Tribal Specific Program.

Yes No

Back

### **Resolve Errors**



**Note**: Consumers can upload photos taken with a phone and/or PDF files.

# Resolve Errors – Pending Review

Once the consumer has submitted documentation for review, the following screen will display.

## We Are Checking Their Documents

We need to check their documents to make sure they qualify. When we finish, the status on your account dashboard will change.

### This will take a few minutes.

Please come back when the status changes on your account dashboard

The Lifeline Support Center hours are 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. ET, Monday - Sunday. If you're using the system outside of those hours, please check back today or tomorrow morning after 9 a.m. ET to see if they qualify for Lifeline.

### If they qualify...

You will have 90 days to enroll NC Person in NLAD.

### If they do not qualify...

We'll ask for more information or tell you what to do next. You will have until 12/9/2018 (Based on US Eastern Time) to send us the information or complete the next steps. In the Service Provider Portal, the application status will appear as "Pending Review" until the Lifeline Support Center representative has finished its review and has updated the consumer's status.

For applications that require more documentation, subscribers will have **45 days to submit documentation from the date of the initial application.** Otherwise, **a new application** will need to be started.

# Resolve Errors – Duplicate Subscriber

### Eligibility Result: "Already Enrolled in Lifeline."

# Our Records Show That You Already Have Lifeline

### You are signed up with [company name].

If you don't have a Lifeline benefit now, you had one in the past and you are still in our system.

### Decide if you want to:

### Stay with [company].

If you are happy with the service you are getting, you do not need to do anything else.

If you need to start your service again, call them at [(xxx) xxx-xxxx]. You can also visit their website at www.website.com.

### Transfer your service.

- 1. Find a new company using the list of phone or internet companies near you.
- 2. Call or visit them, and ask them to transfer your service.

### Cancel your benefit.

Call [company] at [(xxx) xxx-xxxx] and ask them to cancel your Lifeline benefit.

If you think this is fraud, call USAC.

If you think this message is wrong, call USAC at (800) 234-9473. For example:

- If you never had a Lifeline benefit and think someone else is using your information.
- If you think you already cancelled your benefit.

If the consumer received this eligibility error and would **like to transfer their Lifeline benefit**, they are able to complete this process with their new chosen service provider.

# **Questions?**

# Available for Public Use **How to Check Application Status**

# **Applying for Lifeline**

**Check Status** 

If a consumer needs to submit documentation and is waiting for an updated status from the Lifeline Support Center, the state user can help a consumer check the status of a Lifeline application through the Service Provider Portal or by calling the Lifeline Support Center.

### **Lifeline Support Center**



1-800-234-9473

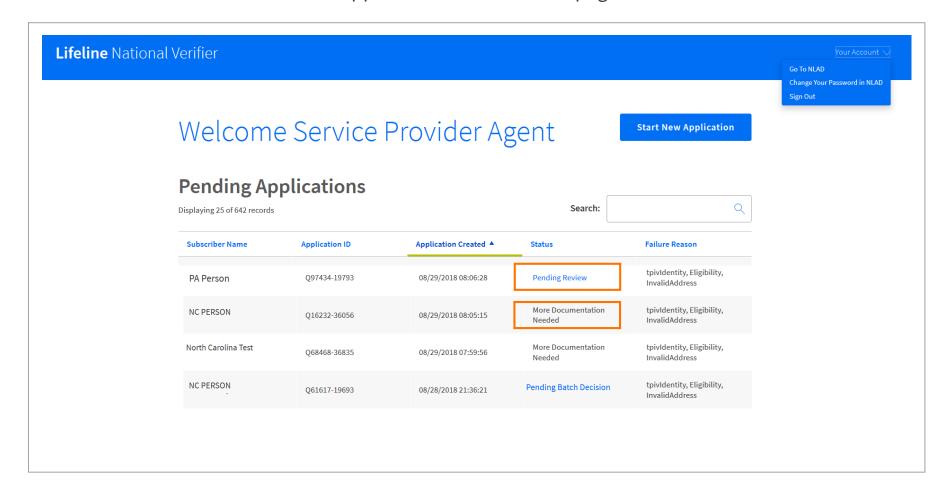
7 days a week

9:00 AM to 9:00 PM ET

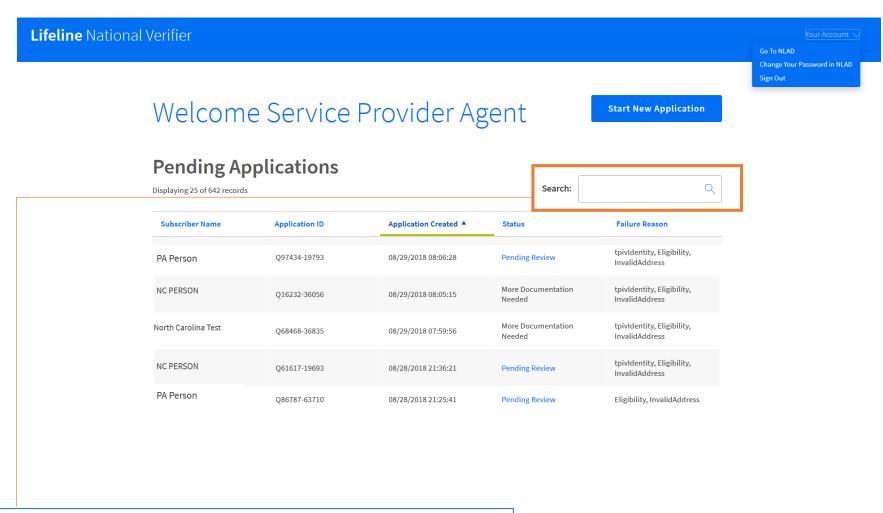
If a consumer has provided an email address, they will be contacted by email when there are any changes to their application. If no email has been provided, the consumer will be contacted by mail.

# **Checking Application Status**

State users can see the status of a consumer application on their home page:

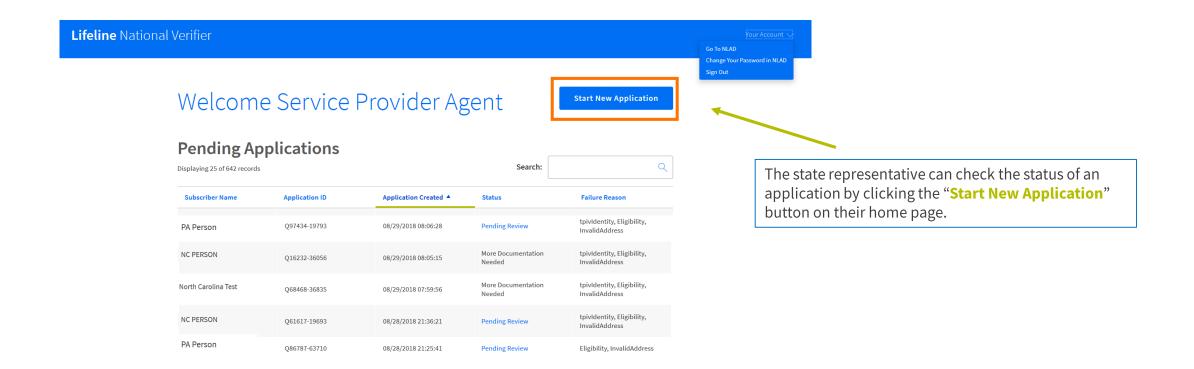


**Checking Application Status** 



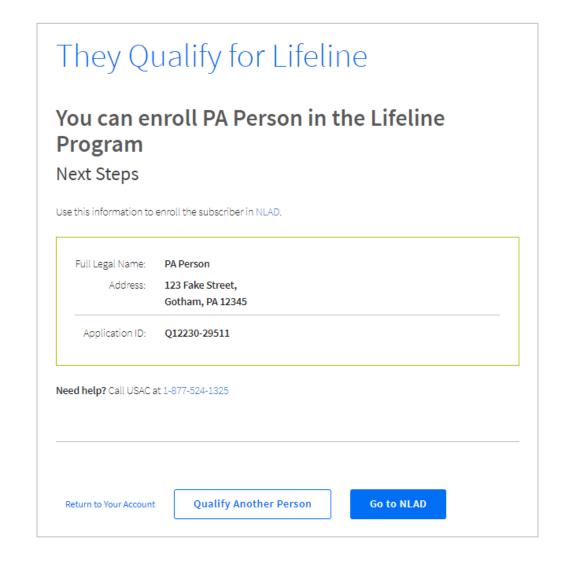
State representatives can use the **search function** to find a consumer's application. They can search by entering a consumer's First Name or Last Name.

# **Checking Application Status**



**Qualified Result** 

- The consumer can now enroll in Lifeline with a service provider.
- The state user cannot enroll the consumer, but this information can be used by the service provider of the consumer's choice.



# **Questions?**



# **Resources for Consumers and State Agencies**

- Lifeline Support Center
  - (800) 234-9473
  - <u>LifelineSupport@usac.org</u>
  - 9 a.m.– 9 p.m. ET, 7 days a week
- <u>LifelineSupport.org</u>
  - Consumer instructions
  - How to use National Verifier
  - Consumer Videos

- Training Videos
  - Webinars
  - Videos
- State User Questions
  - <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u>
- State and Federal Partner page

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# **Questions?**

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