How to Apply for Lifeline

Lifeline Program April 9, 2025



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Meet Our Team

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Senior Communications Specialist

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Agenda

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

Announcements

Announcements

Disaster Assistance Waivers Expiring

- On October 10, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted an <u>Order</u> that temporarily waives Lifeline eligibility requirements in section 54.409(a)-(b) to ensure that consumers participating in <u>FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP</u>) because of Hurricane Milton, can apply for Lifeline.
- Consumers affected by Hurricane Milton can apply for Lifeline using IHP through April 10, 2025.
- As of April 3, consumers affected by Hurricane Helene are no longer able to apply for Lifeline using IHP.

Lifeline Program Overview

Lifeline Program

Overview

- Lifeline is a federal program dedicated to making phone and internet service more affordable for low-income households.
 - The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the Lifeline program on behalf of the FCC.
 - USAC is responsible for helping consumers apply for the program, understand eligibility requirements, and keep their benefit current through an annual recertification process.

A monthly discount for phone or internet service for eligible lowincome consumers

Lifeline Program Overview

Lifeline Benefit

- Eligible consumers can receive a monthly discount on qualifying phone, internet, or bundled services.
 - **Standard Benefit**: Monthly discount up to **\$9.25** for internet and bundled service and up to **\$5.25** for phone service.
 - Enhanced Tribal Benefit: Monthly discount up to \$34.25 for consumers living on qualifying Tribal lands.
 - **Tribal Link Up**: One-time discount up to \$100 for the initial setup of phone service with certain Lifeline providers for consumers who live on qualifying Tribal lands.
 - **Survivor Benefit**: Monthly discount of **\$9.25** for up to six months on phone, internet, or bundled service for qualifying survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, or related crimes.

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.

Lifeline Program Overview

How to Qualify (Continued)

- There are **several ways** a survivor can qualify for the **Survivor Benefit**. Survivors experiencing financial hardship who attempt a line separation request can:
 - Confirm their financial hardship to participate in Lifeline by meeting <u>existing Lifeline criteria</u> or through the expanded qualification criteria below:
 - Household income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
 - Enrollment in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
 - Enrollment in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch or Breakfast program, including enrollment at a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school or school district.
 - Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year.

Note: Survivors must include proof of an attempted line separation request from their mobile phone company.

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.

Access Application

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



Landing Page

- This will redirect you to the application landing page.
- On the 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.

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 name?



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.

Social Security Number (SSN)

Enter the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

Last 4 digits of your SSN

O Number on Tribal ID

Enter your Tribal Identification Number.

What is your home address?

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nber and Name	Apt, Unit, etc.	
oad		
	State	Zip Code
Town	Choose X	00000

Personal Information (2/2)

- Tell us 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.
- Once you provide this information, 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

Next

Child or Dependent's Information

- If you qualify through a child or dependent, you will be asked to provide that person's information.
- Once you provide this information, 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.	



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)

Enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

Last 4 digits of their SSN

XXX - XX -

This is required if you're applying for Lifeline.

Other government identification

A photo of their Driver's License, passport, consular ID, birth certificate, or other government ID issued by the United States or another country.

O Number on Tribal ID

Enter their Tribal Identification Number.

Back

Create Account (1/2)

- You must create a username and password to set up an account and sign in.
 - Your username can be an email address or a unique ID.
 - Your password should 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 1 number (0-9)

At least 1 special character

I No restricted phrases ?



(!@#\$%^&*)

Show Password

Password

Confirm Password

Type the same password again.

Create Account (2/2)

- You will need to provide your contact information:
 - Email address (required)
 - Phone number (optional)
 - Mailing address (if it is different from your home address)
- You can also choose your preferred language (optional).
 - English
 - Spanish
 - Both
- You must agree to the "**Terms & Conditions**" by checking the box.

	n alternate email
	natemate email.
What is your pho	ne number? (Optional)
() -	
By providing a phone nu	umber, you consent to letting USAC contact you at that phone number
via artificial or prerecord your Lifeline benefit. For	led voice message or text for important reminders and updates abou r text messages, message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to end
messages.	
Do you want to p	rovide a mailing address? (Optional) (?)
Yes, my mailing ad	dress is different than home address
What is your	preferred language? (Optional)
We will send you outrea	ch about the status of your application in the language(s) you select.
 English 	
Español	
O Both	
O Both	

Back

Submit

Questions?

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.

Get Started Need Help?	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.

Return to Application	Start Lifeline	Application		
Application Type	Application ID	Application	Created	Created Expiration Date
Start an application to see if yo	ı qualify.			

Qualifying Programs

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

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 ?

Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs

Tribal Specific Program (only choose if you live on Tribal lands)

FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) ?

Ion't think I participate in any of these programs, I may qualify through my income.

Ion't participate in any of these, but I have a child or dependent who may. ?

Review Your Information

- Review the information you have entered.
 - If you need to correct your information, select "**Edit**" to update.
- Review the consent statement and check the box to confirm the information you provided will 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:	Cherry Blossom	
Date of Birth:	March 18, 2000	Edit
Last 4 Numbers of SSN:	1111	
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.

How to Apply

Agreement Page

- After reviewing each statement, you must initial each box to consent to the information in each statement by signing electronically with your first and last name.
- Once you click "**Submit,**" the application is finished.

Agreement

You are almost done qualifying. Please initial next to each statement and sign this form to finish the process.

I agree, under penalty of perjury, to the following statements:

 Initial
 I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get

 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 this form).

Initial lagree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address within 30 days.

- Initial I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline anymore, including:
 - I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a government program or income anymore.
 - 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).
- Initial I know that my household can only get one Lifeline benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not getting more than one Lifeline benefit. (?)
- Initial I agree that all of the information I provide on this form may be collected, used, shared, and retained for the purposes of applying for and /or 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 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.



Agreement Page – Approved

- Once the application has been reviewed, you will be informed whether 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.

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."

Application ID: Q68398-02211 Full legal name Cherry Blossom Address: 123 CHERRY BLOSSOM ST, CHERRY, AK 11111 Method of identity verification:

Last 4 digits of SSN

Do you live on Tribal lands? + Need to find an internet company near you? +

Need help? Contact the Lifeline Support Center at (800) 234 9473 7 days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET or email us at LifelineSupport@usac.org.

Select a Company

- Use USAC's <u>Companies Near Me</u> tool to find a phone or internet company to enroll with.
- To find a company, you will have to:
 - Enter your zip code or city and state.
 - Select Lifeline under Program.
 - Select "**Search**" to receive 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.

Enter Your Zin Code	Enter Your City and State
OR	
Example: 12345	
Select a Program:	
🔘 Lifeline	
Search Clear Results	

Poll

Providing Additional Information

Outcome of Eligibility Check

- If we are unable to 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 a 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.

Inverse I	a dite and	information.	an add a	مام الما م	dama a dama 2	
now can i	eart my	mormation	or add a	child of	dependents	

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).
 - You can provide a document showing you participate in a qualifying program (e.g., SNAP, 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

Proof of Eligibility

- The document you upload to show your program participation must include:
 - 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.

Proof of Eligibility – Income

- If you qualify through 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).
- You will then answer 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?⑦ Number of people in my household:	
Back	Next

Proof of Eligibility – Income

- 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

Proof of SSN

- 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

Proof of Life

- 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

Lifeline Support

- USAC has various ways you can receive support.
 - Lifeline's consumer website: <u>LifelineSupport.org</u>
- Contact LifelineSupport@usac.org for questions, assistance, and general application inquiries.
- The Lifeline Support Center:
 - Available via telephone 7 days a week, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET at (800) 234-9473.

Resources

Consumer Education Materials

- For more information on the application process:
 - How to Apply Flyer
 - How to Apply (Spanish) Flyer
 - <u>Survivor Benefit Flyer</u>
- Instructional video on <u>How To Apply Online</u>.

May Webinar

<u>Register</u> for the next Lifeline webinar.

- **Date**: May 14, 2025
- **Time**: 3 p.m. 4 p.m. ET
- **Topic**: Getting Started as a New Company with Lifeline

Webinars

Join us to learn about Lifeline program updates, including Lifeline program rules and orders, guidance about compliance and filings, the National Verifier (NV), and the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD).

 $\underline{Sign} up \underline{C} for the Lifeline program newsletter to receive webinar announcements via email.$

Upcoming Trainings

May 2025 Monthly Webinar: Getting Started as a New Company with Lifeline

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 Time: 03:00 pm ET – 04:00 pm ET

Register

Thank You!

