National Verifier Training: Eligibility November 5, 2019



Universal Service Administrative Co.

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
- A copy of the slide deck is in the "Handouts" section of webinar panel

Today's Presenters





Catie Miller



Leah Sorini



Linnita Hosten

National Verifier Reminders



- Log In : CheckLifeline.org
- National Verifier staging (pre-production)
 - Pre-Production Guide
 - Reviews: <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u>
- Our usac.org site is being updated and will be available on November 11, 2019
 - Our usac.org landing page will remain the same, but Lifeline links will change
 - Lifelinesupport.org, The National Verifier and NLAD sites will remain the same



At the end of the course, you will...



...be able to:

- Navigate the National Verifier (NV) Provider Portal
- Assist a consumer with the eligibility application process through the National Verifier (NV) Provider Portal

...understand:

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- A consumer's options for checking their eligibility
- Procedural guidelines (ex. responsibilities service providers have when supporting consumers in checking their eligibility / applying for Lifeline)
- The role of the Lifeline Support Center, service providers, and consumers in the eligibility process
- How to navigate common eligibility scenarios

Course Overview



01 | Introduction

- Eligibility Check Overview
- The National Verifier (NV) eligibility check in your state



02 | Applying for lifeline with assistance from a service provider

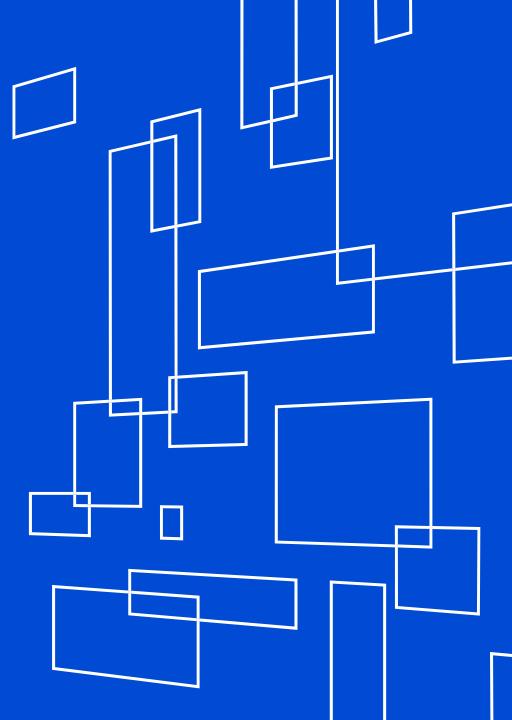
- How can a service provider help a consumer apply via the National Verifier (NV) Provider Portal?
- How can a service provider assist a consumer in updating their address?
- What are the service provider's responsibilities?



03 | Summary

• What are the key themes and takeaways?

Section 1: Introduction



Introduction

Universal Service Administrative Co.

With the introduction of the National Verifier (NV) System, the eligibility check processes have changed:



• The eligibility verification process has been streamlined. The National Verifier checks and determines a consumer's Lifeline eligibility.



• Applicants can check eligibility directly via the National Verifier (NV) Web Portal, by mail, or with assistance from a service provider.



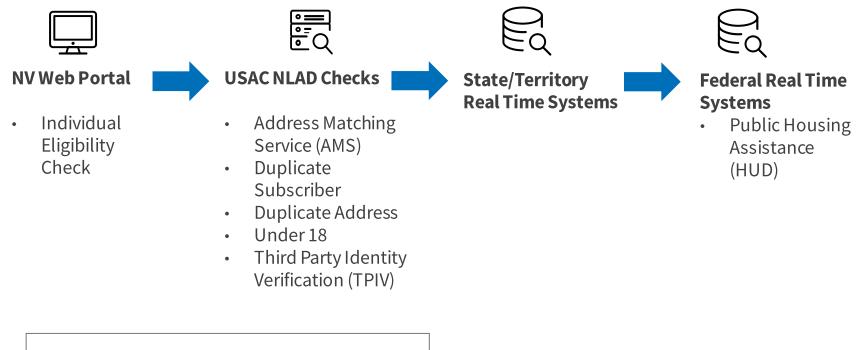
• Consumers can **check their application status online**. They can also contact the Lifeline Support Center to check their **application status** or their **enrollment status**.

It is important to note that the National Verifier will provide a centralized location for checking the eligibility of consumers. Consumers, however, must still be enrolled with a service provider in NLAD to start receiving Lifeline services.

Eligibility Check – High Level



Overall eligibility check process conducted in the National Verifier System:



Real Time Data Processing:

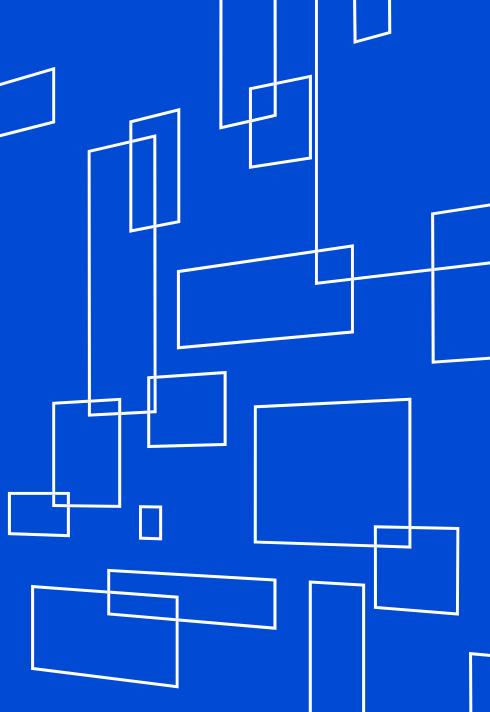
Near real-time response on consumer eligibility.



NV State	Data Processing	Eligibility Check Response Time	Eligibility Check Response Time
NV State	System	Consumer Found in Federal Database	Consumer Not Found in Federal Database
Arizona			
Connecticut			
Georgia			
Kansas			
Nebraska	Federal Database		
Nevada	Connections Only*	Real time response (within minutes)	Real time response (within minutes)
New York			(within minutes)
Virginia			
Vermont			
West Virginia			
lowa	State/Federal Connection		

*USAC is actively working with these states to create additional automated connections where possible.

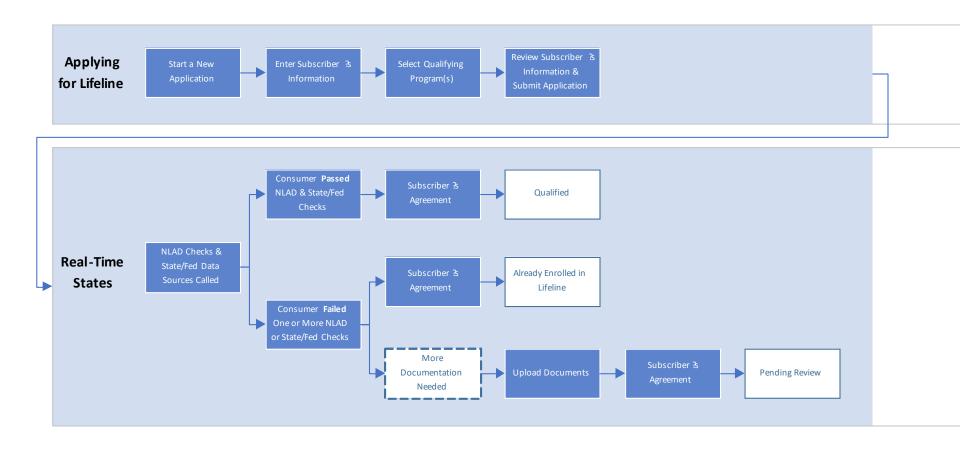
Section 2: Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a Service Provider



Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP



Process Overview



Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Start New Application



ational Verifier Welco	me Service	Provider Ag	gent	Start New Application	Your Accoun Go To NLAD Change Your Password in NLJ Sign Out
	Applications		Search:	Q	
Subscriber Name	Application ID	Application Created 🔺	Status	Failure Reason	
PA Person	Q97434-19793	08/29/2018 08:06:28	Pending Review	tpivldentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
NC PERSON	Q16232-36056	08/29/2018 08:05:15	More Documentation Needed	tpivIdentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
North Carolina Test	Q68468-36835	08/29/2018 07:59:56	More Documentation Needed	tpivldentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
NC PERSON	Q61617-19693	08/28/2018 21:36:21	Pending Review	tpivIdentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
			Pending Review	Eligibility, InvalidAddress	

Service provider representatives can use the **search function** to find a consumer's application. They can search by entering a consumer's First Name, Last Name, or Application ID.

The representative can start a new application by clicking the "**Start New Application**" button on their home page.

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Enter Subscriber's Information



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

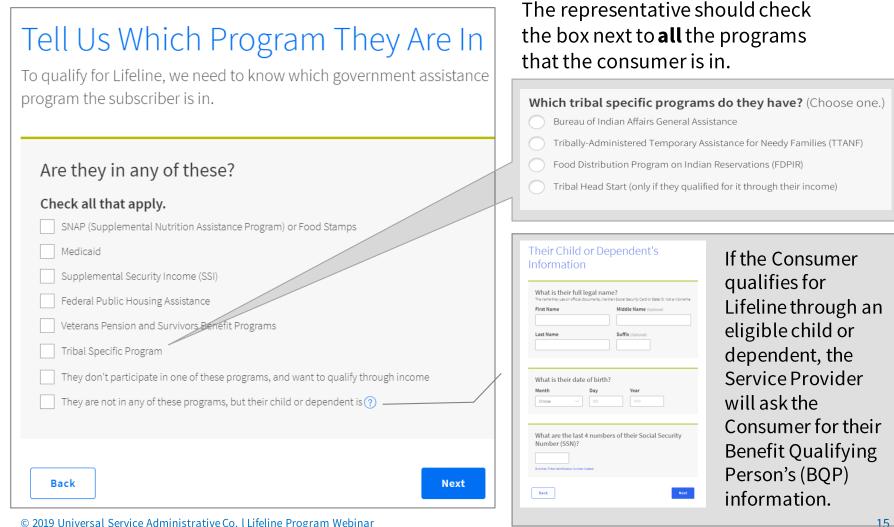
	Middle Name (Optional)
Last Name S	
What is their date of birth?	Suffix (Optional) Only the consumer legal name can be us and not a nicknam
MonthDayYearMMDDYYYY	

Street Number and Nar	e Apt, C	Jnit, etc.
City	State Zip Co	ode
Your City or Town	Choose V 00000)

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Select Qualifying Program(s)



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



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Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Review Subscriber's Information & Submit Application

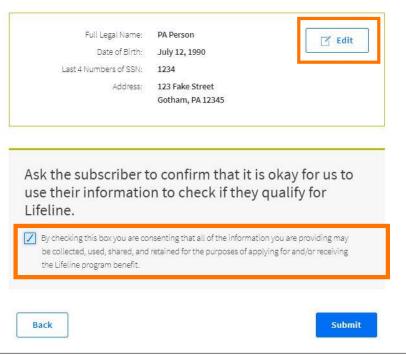


The service provider representative and consumer have the opportunity to review the consumer's information, and can edit it if necessary, prior to submitting the consumer's information.

Review the Subscriber's Information

Before we check if they qualify for Lifeline, make sure they check and see that their information is right.

Double check the information below.



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

Either the consumer or service provider representative can check the consent check box.

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Review Subscriber's 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 legal information and to confirm that it's ok to use this information to check for eligibility.

Review the Subscriber's Information

Before we check if they qualify for Lifeline, make sure they check and see that their information is right.

Double check the information below.

Edi	PA Person	Full Legal Name:
	July 12, 1990	Date of Birth:
	1234	Last 4 Numbers of SSN:
	Junior Fake	Child/Dependent's Full Legal Name:
	June 12, 2017	Child/Dependent's Date of Birth:
	8889	Child/Dependent's Last 4 Numbers of SSN:
	123 Fake Street	Address:
	Gotham, PA 12345	

Ask the subscriber to confirm that it is okay for us to use their information to check if they qualify for Lifeline. 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 the Lifeline program benefit. By checking this box you are consenting that all of the information you are providing on behalf of a qualifying dependent may be collected, used, shared, and retained for the purposes of applying for and/or receiving the Lifeline program benefit.

Back

Submit

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP NLAD Checks & State/Fed Data Sources Called



Double check the information below.	
This may take a few minutes. Please wait	. 🛛 🗹 Edit
Last 4 Numbers of SSN: 8889 Address: 270-35 Hore Partial Conversion 145	

NV will make the following verifications:

NLAD checks:

- Verify a consumer's address through AMS
- Verify if a consumer is already enrolled or if someone at their address is already enrolled
- Verify a consumer's identity through TPIV

Federal Data Sources

• HUD

Medicaid

State Data sources

• All available state data sources

(1) There Was a Problem Come back later and try again. This is not a problem with your computer or internet connection. We are working to fix it as fast as possible. If you need help right now, you can call Lifeline Customer Service at 1-800-xxx-xxxx. Double check the information below. Full Legal Name: PA Person C Edit

Before we check if they qualify for Lifeline, make sure they check and

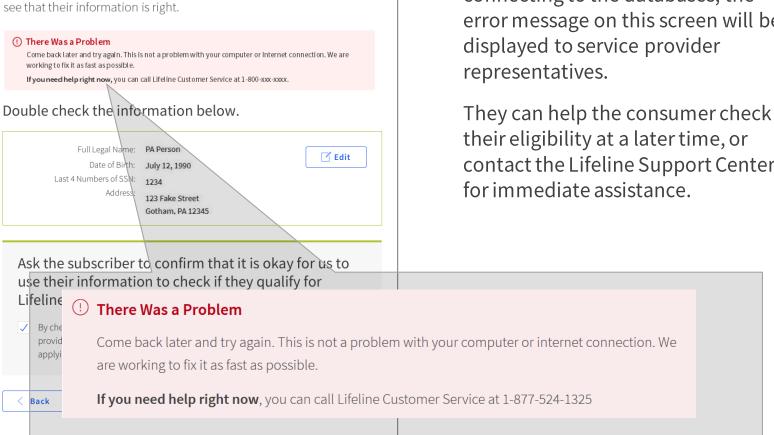
If there is a system error in connecting to the databases, the error message on this screen will be displayed to service provider

contact the Lifeline Support Center

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP System Errors

Review the Subscriber's

Information





Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP 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:

to fin	ve the subscriber initial next to each statement and sign this hish the process.	Initial PP	I agree that my service provider can give the Lifeline Program administrator all of the information I am giving on this form. I understand that this information is meant to help run the Lifeline Program and that if I do not let them give it to the Administrator, I will not be able to get Lifeline benefits.
	e, under penalty of perjury, to the following nents: I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get benefits	Initial PP	All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
PP	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	I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get Lifeline Program benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, jail
nitial PP	l agree that if I move I will give my service provider my new address within 30 days.	Initial	time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program. My service provider may have to check whether I still qualify at any time. If I
nitial PP	I understand that I have to tell my service provider within 30 days if I do not qualify for Lifeline anymore, including: 1. I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a	PP	need to recertify (renew) my Lifeline benefit, I understand that I have to respond by the deadline or I will be removed from the Lifeline Program and my Lifeline benefit will stop.
	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).	Initial PP	If I am seeking to qualify for Lifeline as an eligible resident of Tribal lands, I live on Tribal lands, as defined in 54.400(e) of the Lifeline rules, (7)
Initial PP	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 henefit		

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).

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Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Subscriber's Agreement

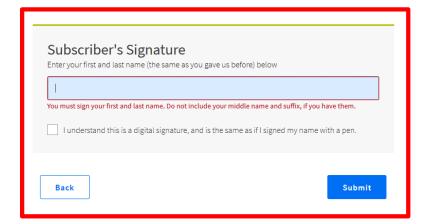


PA Person	
I understand this is a digital s	signature, and is the same as if I signed my name with a pen.

must write their name in order to sign the Application Form. Their typed name will act as an esignature.

After the consumer initials next to the

individual consent statements, they



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

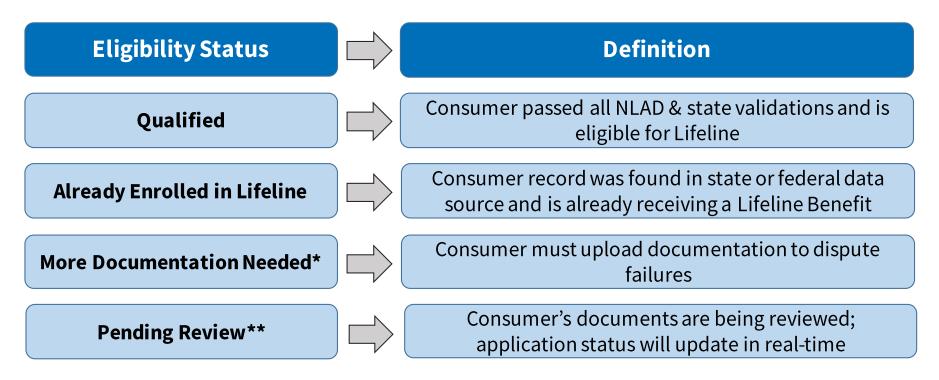


It is critical that the consumer understands and consents to the information on this tab.**A person assisting a consumer to submit their Application Form cannot initial or enter the e-signature for the consumer.**

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Eligibility Statuses



After submitting the application, the subscriber's application will receive one of **four eligibility statuses**:



*Note: Consumers who receive a status of More Documentation Needed will be directed to dispute failures before proceeding to the Subscriber's Agreement

**Note: Consumers will only receive a status of Pending Review once they have uploaded documents to dispute failures

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Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Consumer Passed NLAD & State/Fed Checks



The consumer will receive an eligibility status of "Qualified" if they passed all NLAD and State/Fed data source checks.

Eligibility Status: "Qualified"

They Qu	ualify for Lifeline
Program Next Steps	nroll PA Person in the Lifeline
Use this information to	enroll the subscriber in NLAD.
Full Legal Name: Address:	123 Fake Street, Gotham, PA 12345
Application ID:	Q12230-29511

	eed help? Call USAC at 1-	877-524-1325	

Once the service provider representative finishes assisting the consumer with checking their eligibility, the representative will see a message indicating the consumer's eligibility status.

The representative can then **proceed to enroll the consumer in NLAD**. The consumer will need to enroll via NLAD within 90 days or their "Qualified" eligibility result will expire. Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP

Consumer Failed One or More NLAD or State/Fed Checks



Eligibility Status: "Already Enrolled in Lifeline"

Our Records Show That The Subscriber Already Has Lifeline

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

Let them know that these are their options:

Stay with their current Company

They do not need to do anything else here. But if they updated their address, they must **notify their phone** or **internet company** of their new address within **30 days**.

Restart their service or cancel their benefit.

If they need to restart their service or want to cancel their benefit, they need to contact their current phone or internet company.

If they don't know what company is giving them service, they can log in to the Lifeline National Verifier consumer portal or call Lifeline Customer Service at 1-877-524-1325

Transfer their benefit.

If they want to transfer their Lifeline benefit to your company, you can log into NLAD and use the Transfer Lifeline Benefit feature to enroll the subscriber with your company.

Or they can find a new company using the list of phone or internet companies near them and ask them to transfer their service.

If the consumer thinks this is fraud, they should call USAC.

If they think this message is wrong, they should call Lifeline Customer Service at 1-877-524-1325. For example:

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

If the consumer received this eligibility failure and would like to transfer their benefit, they are able to do so with their chosen new service provider.

Consumer Failed One or More NLAD or State/Fed Checks



Eligibility Status: "More Documentation Needed"

If the Consumer receives a 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.

Error	Document/Proof Required
AMS (Address Matching Service Error)	Address validation
Duplicate Address	Duplicate address flow
Under 18	Proof of emancipated minor status
TPIV (Identity Verification Error)	Proof of identity
Program Eligibility	Proof of program/income eligibility

Note: A consumer can ask a service provider to help them submit documentation via their service provider NV Web Portal account.

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Upload Documents



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

We Could Not Confirm That They Are in One of These Programs

To qualify for Lifeline, the subscriber needs to give us more information.

Which program do they want to qualify through?

They will need to show proof that they are in the program they choose.

Choose one.

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps
- O Medicaid

Back

- O Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- O Federal Public Housing Assistance
- O Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs
- O Tribal Specific Program (only choose if they live on tribal lands)
- O They don't participate in one of these programs, and want to qualify through income
- O They are not in any of these programs, but their child or dependent is in one of these programs

They will have 45 days to provide more documents so we can determine whether they qualify for Lifeline. If we don't receive this information by 12/10/2018, they will need to come back to this site and fill this form out again.

Next

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

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

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP 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 enrol! 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 NV Provider Portal, the application status will appear as **"Pending Review"** until the Lifeline Support Center representative has finished their 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.

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Resolve Application Errors



Service providers can see the status of a consumer application on their home page:

al Verifier Welcom	e Service	Provider Ag	gent	Start New Application	Your Account Go To NLAD Change Your Password in NLA Sign Out
• •	Pending Applications Displaying 25 of 642 records			٩	
Subscriber Name	Application ID	Application Created 🔺	Status	Failure Reason	
PA Person	Q97434-19793	08/29/2018 08:06:28	Pending Review	tpivldentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
NC PERSON	Q16232-36056	08/29/2018 08:05:15	More Documentation Needed	tpivIdentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
North Carolina Test	Q68468-36835	08/29/2018 07:59:56	More Documentation Needed	tpivIdentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	
NC PERSON	Q61617-19693	08/28/2018 21:36:21	Pending Batch Decision	tpivIdentity, Eligibility, InvalidAddress	

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Journey Map – Successful Application



Consumers can check their eligibility through multiple methods, including a service provider assist them in their application through an NV Web Portal service provider account.

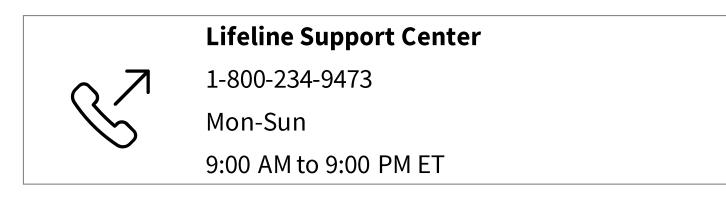
Situation: Taylor wants to apply for Lifeline with assistance from a service provider.

Character (s)	Step 1 Step 1 Step 1 Step 1 Step 1	Step 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 2 Step 2	Step 3Step 3 <th>Step 4 Interpret of the second second</th> <th>Step 5 Step 5 I Step 5 Step 5</th>	Step 4 Interpret of the second	Step 5 Step 5 I Step 5 Step 5
Step	Taylor visits a service provider's store. Chris, a SP representative, visits his NV Provider Portal account, and logs in with his own credentials.	Chris starts a new Application Form by asking Taylor each of the form's questions before filling in her information. This consumer information will be used to check her eligibility.	She selects the qualifying program(s) she participates in. Chris and Taylorreview the Application Form. Chris directs Taylor to check the box to indicate that she understands that her information will be used to check her eligibility.	Taylor reads and initials the consent and certification statements. Taylor then e-signs to finish the process.* Note: Service providers cannot complete the self – certification on behalf of consumers.	Taylor is notified that she is eligible for Lifeline and can enroll with Chris , who will then do so via NLAD.*
System	NV Web Portal	NV Web Portal	NV Web Portal	NV Web Portal	NV Web Portal & NLAD

Applying for Lifeline via the NV Web Portal Check Status



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



• 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.

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Update a Consumer's Address



Service Providers can assist consumers in updating their address via the National Verifier web portal, if necessary. Service providers should initiate the address update process in NLAD.

Subscriber's Information We will use this information to find out if the subscriber qualifies	for
we will use this information to find out if the subscriber qualities the Lifeline Program. Enter the consumer's new address?	Consumers may select "Update Your Address" on the Consumer Landing Page to start a new application with
The address where they will get service. Do not use a P.O. Box.	Lifeline National Verifier English Español Your Account >
Street Number and Name Apt, Unit, etc. 123 Street Road Image: City or Town Your City or Town State Choose 00000	Welcome Lifeline Subscriber Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the cost of phone or internet services. Lear more about the Lifeline Program 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 Application ID Application Created Status Please select "Apply or Transfer Your Service" to qualify for Lifeline.
Note: The consumer will automatically received an address error because NI AD will not	/e Apply or Transfer Your Update Your Address Find a Company Near Me Service Complete a new application if you'd like to sign Complete a new application

up for Lifeline again or want to transfer your

benefit to a different company.

an address error because NLAD will not recognize their new address.

with your Lifeline service, you can move to

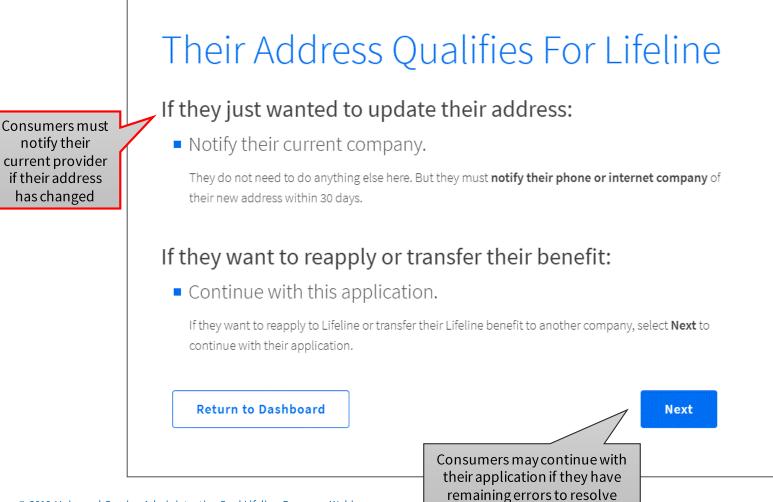
another phone or internet compan

company know as soon as possible.

Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Update a Consumer's Address



Once the consumer confirms their new address, they will be directed to the **Address Confirmation Page**, notifying them that their new address was successfully saved.

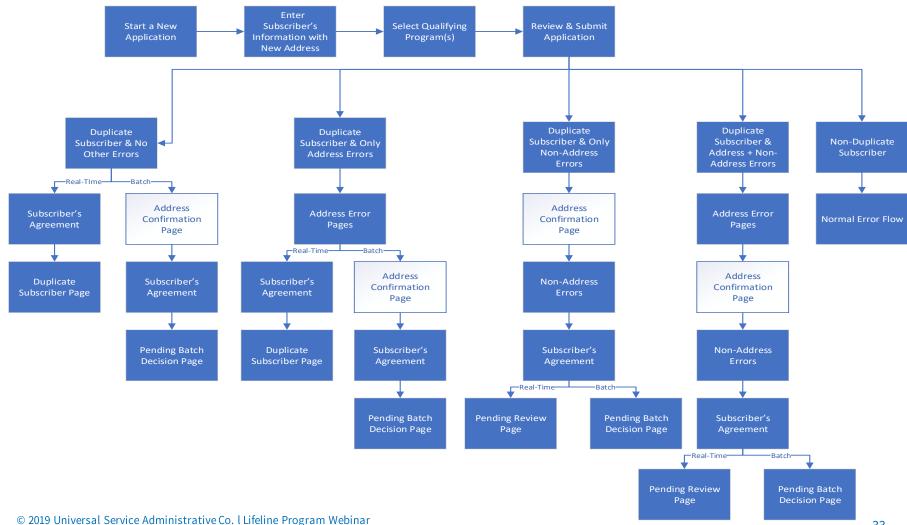


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Applying for Lifeline with Assistance from a SP Update a Consumer's Address



Consumers will only see the Address Confirmation Page if they are a **duplicate subscriber** *and* have certain error combinations:





Service providers may assist consumers in checking their eligibility through the National Verifier.

Service providers are **able to aid** consumers by:

- Helping consumers understand their responsibilities as a Lifeline benefit recipient
 - Providing instructions and guidance
 - Helping consumers update their address if necessary
- Providing consumers with a means to use the NV Web Portal to complete an application and / or check the status of their eligibility check with their own consumer account
- \oslash

Assisting consumers in their application through the service provider representative's own NV Web Portal account as long as the consumer is present in person to give their consent on the certification and consent fields, and provides their e-signature

Service providers are **unable to aid** consumers by:



- Entering a consumer's information without their consent
- \times
- Signing a consumer's consent and certification statements



Submitting false documentation and information on the consumer's behalf

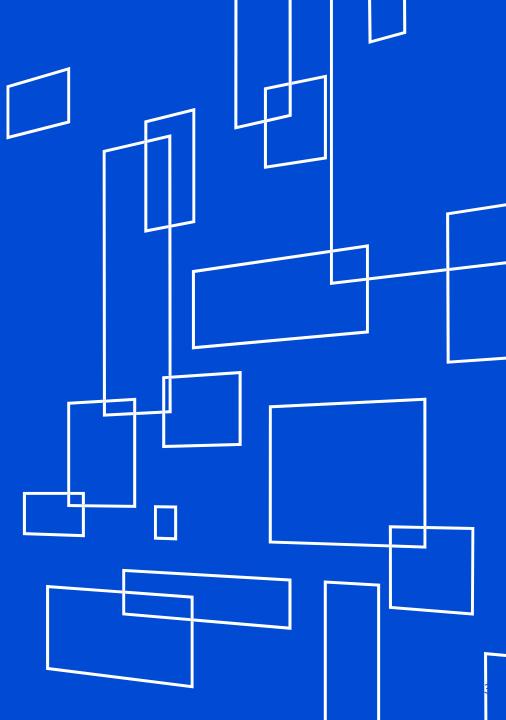


Claiming to verify a consumer's eligibility and promising the consumer the Lifeline benefit prior to verification



Writing down, copying, or saving the consumer's PII

Section 3: Summary



Lesson Summary Key Takeaways and Tips

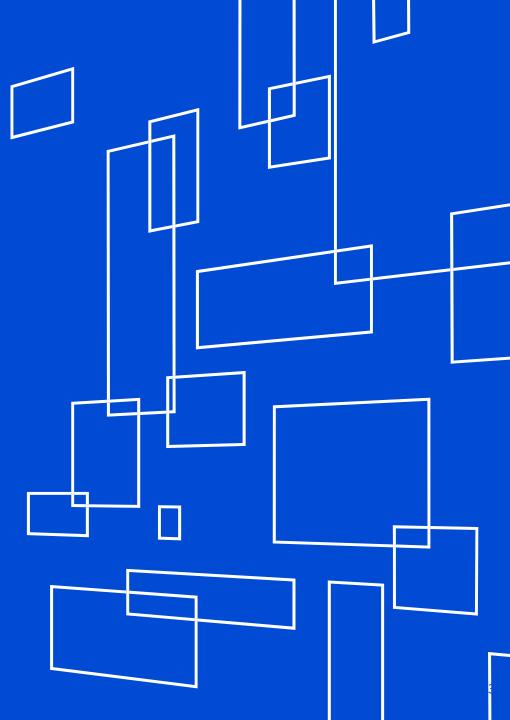


In this section, you have learned:

- A service provider representative can use their existing NLAD credentials in order to access the NV Web Portal.
- Some of the participating states will use **real-time data systems**, which means that **a consumer application can have near real-time response on a consumer's eligibility.**
- A service provider representative can assist a consumer submit their Application Form via their own NV Provider Portal account.
- If necessary, a service provider can help the consumer **to submit more documentation** to verify their eligibility depending on their error type.
- A service provider is also able to **provide consumers with information and guidance to apply for Lifeline**, and help consumers **understand their responsibilities as Lifeline benefit recipients**.
- A service provider **cannot sign a consumer's consent and certification statements** on the consumer's behalf.

Questions?

Looking Ahead



Looking Ahead: National Verifier Training and Support

Trainings for October 2019 Launch:

- November 14, 2019: Correcting Eligibility Errors
- November 19: Using NV Staging Environment
- November 21: Using NV without SP Portal

Office Hours for October 2019 Launch:

November 12: Open Form for
 Service Providers

Register <u>here</u>

Thank You!



• Thank you for joining us!

- If you received this webinars training invitation from another member of your team or know of others who should receive training invitations please email us at <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u> to be added to the National Verifier training and outreach list for these states.
- Sign up for Lifeline Program email updates and upcoming events
 - Visit usac.org/li and click "Subscribe" in the upper right hand corner
- Need help? Contact us!
 - General: <u>LifelineSupport@usac.org</u>

