

Tribal User Representative Access

National Verifier Training

October 2021

Housekeeping

- Audio is available through your computer's speakers
- The audience will remain on mute
- Enter questions at any time using the "Questions" box
- If your audio or slides freeze, restart the webinar
- A copy of the slide deck is in the "Handouts" section of the webinar panel



DISCLAIMER:

To accommodate all attendees, real-time closed captions will be present during this presentation. This is a new feature we are testing out to improve webinar accessibility for all. We understand it is a significant change and appreciate your patience. We apologize in advance for any transcription errors or distractions. Thank you for your support.

Meet Our Team

Winta Woldu

Communications Specialist | Lifeline

Winta creates website content and training for consumer advocates, consumers, and service providers.



Tiffany Johnson

Communications Manager | Lifeline

Tiffany manages all communications for Lifeline, including state and federal partnerships.

- Lifeline Program Overview
- What is the National Verifier
- Tribal Agency Access: How to Sign Up
- How to Use the National Verifier
 - Apply
 - Resolve Errors
 - Check Status
- Resources

Objectives

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



...be able to:

- Sign up to get access to the National Verifier
- Support consumers with applying for the Lifeline program using the National Verifier



...understand:

- The Lifeline program and benefits available for consumers
- How to use the National Verifier, resolve errors, and check the status of applications

Lifeline Program Overview

Lifeline Program Overview

- Monthly discount up to \$9.25
- Eligible residents of Tribal lands can receive an enhanced monthly discount up to \$34.25
- Discount may apply to qualifying fixed or mobile services
 - Can be applied to voice, broadband, or bundled services that meet the minimum service standard requirements
- **Link Up**: a Tribal lands one-time benefit up to \$100 to cover initial set up fees at residences in specific areas

Lifeline Program Overview Lifeline Application Process



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

What is the National Verifier

- The National Verifier is a centralized application system that determines a consumer's Lifeline program eligibility
- After qualifying for Lifeline, the consumer's service provider must enter them in the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) to enroll them in the Lifeline program
- Use of the National Verifier is required in all 56 states and territories (with the exception of the <u>NLAD opt-out states</u>: California, Oregon, and Texas, where the National Verifier leverages the state's Lifeline eligibility verification process)

What is the National Verifier Ways to Use the NV

Option 1:

Apply Online

- The consumer visits
 <u>CheckLifeline.org</u>
- Online application is accessible from any computer or mobile device

Option 2:

Apply by Mail

- The consumer fills out the Lifeline Application Form
 - English Form
 - Spanish Form
- The consumer mails the application and supporting documentation to the Lifeline Support Center

Option 3:

Apply Through a Service Provider

- The consumer may apply with the assistance of a service provider
- Service providers may submit an online application on the consumer's behalf using the NV service provider portal (also available at <u>CheckLifeline.org</u>), or
- Through the <u>National Verifier</u>
 <u>Eligibility Check API</u> if the service
 provider has elected to use that
 option

Questions?

Tribal Agency AccessHow to Sign Up: National Verifier

- Tribal partners (e.g., Tribal governments, government agencies, and nonprofits serving Tribal communities) 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 applications

Tribal Agency AccessHow to Sign Up: National Verifier

- Those that may receive a National Verifier account include:
 - Tribal Nation entities and their agents,
 - Social service agencies,
 - Other authorized third parties that have been approved by USAC for purposes of assisting individuals in applying for Lifeline support

How to Sign Up: Tribal Access Request Form

- Complete the <u>Tribal Access Request Form</u>
- 2. Register for a Representative ID (Rep ID) in the <u>Representative Accountability</u> <u>Database</u> (RAD)
- 3. All users must review and agree to the RAD and National Verifier Terms and Conditions, under the Access Agreement section of the <u>Account Types</u> page.
- 4. Send the form and your new Rep ID to <u>LifelineProgram@usac.org</u> with the subject line "Tribal User Access Request"

How to Sign Up: Tribal Access Request Form

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

Tribal Agency User

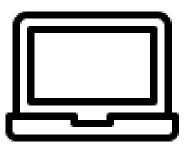
Tribal Agency Name:				
User Name:		Title:		
Street Address:				
	City:		State:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:		Email:		
User Type:	□Tribal - NV			
	I have read this Tribal Access Request Form and understand my obligations.			
User Signature:		Date:		

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 the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) and the National Verifier

- Representatives register for a Rep ID through <u>RAD</u>
- USAC uses 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 Tribal users through RAD
- The user **self-registers** at <u>LifelineRAD.org</u>

Tribal Agency AccessRAD Registration

- Tribal users must submit the following:
 - Full name
 - Date of birth
 - Last four digits of their social security number (SSN4)* or Tribal ID number
 - Physical address
 - Email address

*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

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

Tribal Agency Access RAD Registration

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

Questions?

How to Use the National Verifier

How to Use the National Verifier

Process Overview: Automatic Qualification

Input

Enter consumer data

Name, SSN4 or Tribal ID,
 DOB, address –
 into the National Verifier;
 consumer must initial
 certifications



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



If consumer eligibility record is found, consumer is approved

Result

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

How to Use the National Verifier

Process Overview: Documentation Required

Input

Enter consumer data

Name, SSN4 or
 Tribal ID, DOB,
 address –
 into the National
 Verifier; consumer
 must initial
 certifications

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

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If consumer eligibility record is not found, documentation is required



National Verifier agent reviews documents



Upload requested documentation



If documentation is acceptable, consumer is approved



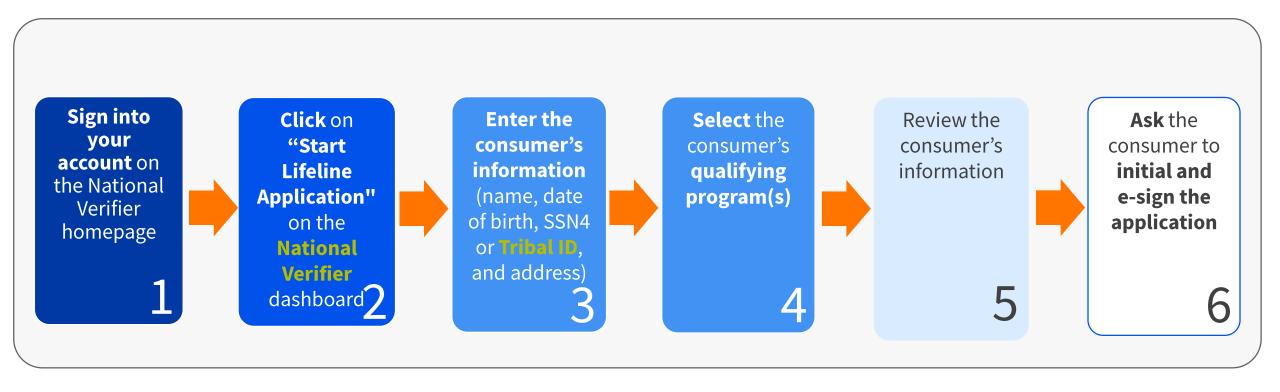


Service provider uses the National Verifier's eligibility approval to enroll the consumer in NLAD

How to Assist a Consumer in Submitting an Application

How to Submit an Application

Step-by-Step Process

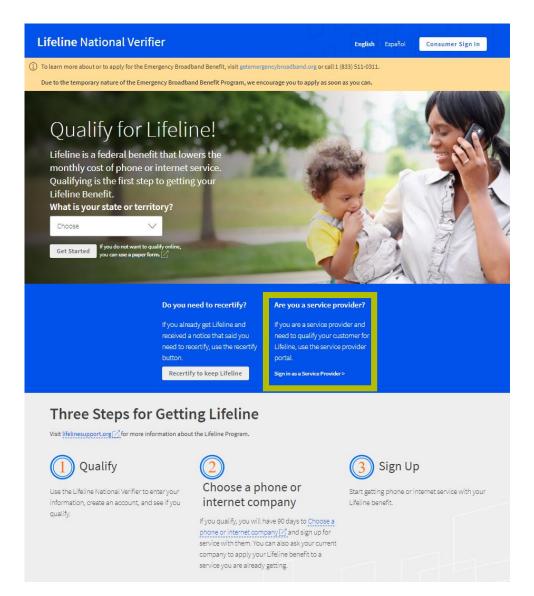


How to Submit an Application

Service Provider Portal

(As a Tribal User Representative)

The National Verifier is available online at CheckLifeline.org



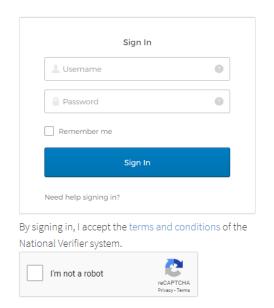
How to Submit an Application Service Provider Portal

To access the service provider portal, you need to:

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

Note: Do not allow your browser to store your username and password. Enter in your username and password each time you log in.

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.

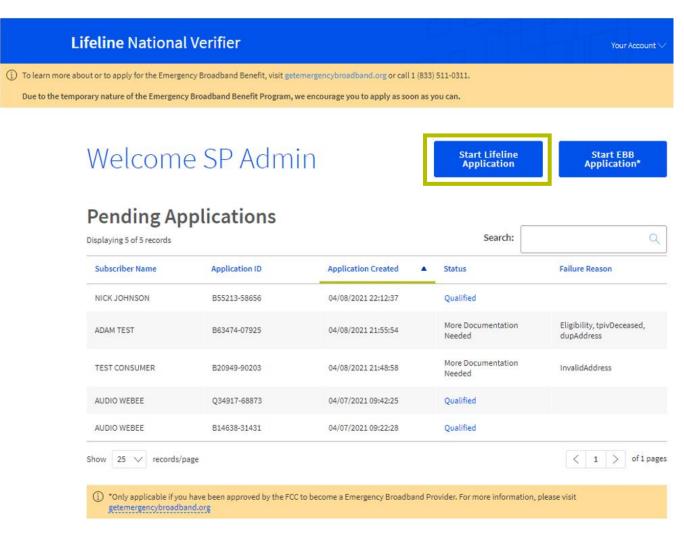
Print an application to mail in?

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

Create an NV Application – Service Provider Portal

Start New Application

 Assist a consumer in starting a new application by clicking the "Start Lifeline Application" button on the dashboard



How to Submit an Application Enter Subscriber's Information

Subscriber's Information We will use this information to find out if the subscriber qualifies for the Lifeline Program or the Emergency Broadband Benefit

Choose

What is their full legal name?

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

First Name

Middle Name (Optional)

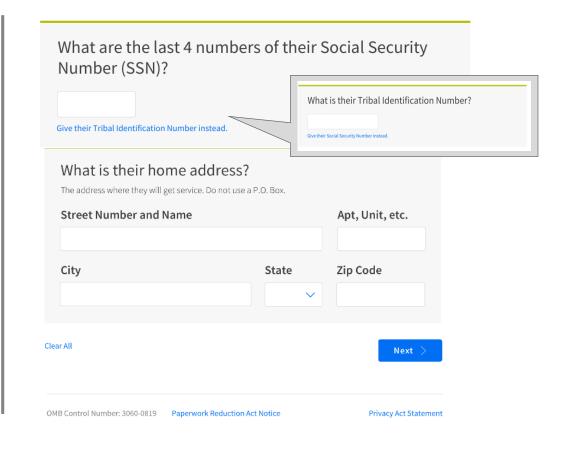
Last Name

What is their date of birth?

Month

Day

Year



How to Submit an Application Select Qualifying Program(s)

Tell Us Which Program They Are In

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

Are they in any of these? Check all that apply. 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 they live on Tribal lands) They don't participate in one of these programs, and want to qualify through income They are not in any of these programs, but their child or dependent is in one of these programs? They may be asked to submit documents about the program(s) they select.

Check the box next to **all** the programs that the consumer is in.

Which tribal specific programs do they 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 they qualified for it through their income) Their Child or Dependent's If the Consumer Information qualifies for Lifeline What is their full legal name? through an eligible child or dependent, Last Name the Tribal user representative will ask the Consumer for their Benefit

Qualifying Person's (BQP) information.

What are the last 4 numbers of their Social Security

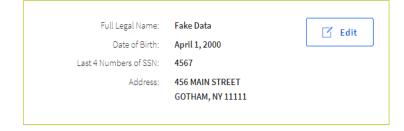
Back

How to Submit an Application Review the Subscriber's Information & Submit Application

Review the Subscriber's Information

Before we check if they qualify for Lifeline or the <u>Emergency</u> <u>Broadband Benefit</u>, make sure they check and see that their information is right.

Double check the information below.



Ask the subscriber to confirm that it is okay for us to use their information to check if they qualify for Lifeline or the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

- The Tribal 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 usage agreement statement
- The consumer must check the consent check box

Back

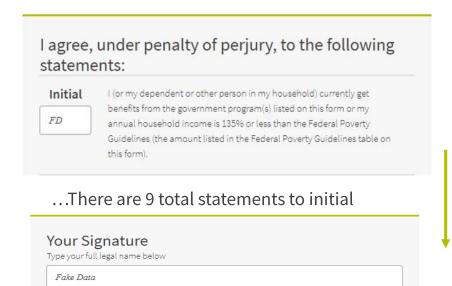
ubmit

How to Submit an Application Subscriber's Agreement

Agreement

Back

Please have the consumer initial next to each statement and sign this form to finish the process.



I understand this is a digital signature, and is the same as if I signed my name with a





It is critical that the consumer understands and consents to the information in each statement

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

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

After the consumer initials next to the individual consent statements, they must type their name in order to sign the Application Form, which will act as an e-signature

Questions?

Process Overview: Documentation Required

Input

Enter consumer data

Name, SSN4 or
 Tribal ID, DOB,
 address into the National
 Verifier; consumer
 must initial
 certifications

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

National Verifier agent reviews documents

If documentation is acceptable, consumer is approved

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Result

If consumer eligibility record is not found, documentation is required

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Upload requested documentation

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

Overview

When a consumer's information cannot be verified, the consumer can submit documentation to resolve the error. Documentation can be submitted online through the consumer or service provider portal or mailed to the Lifeline Support Center



 Tribal user representatives can help the consumer submit required documents directly through the NV Service Provider Portal, or by mail



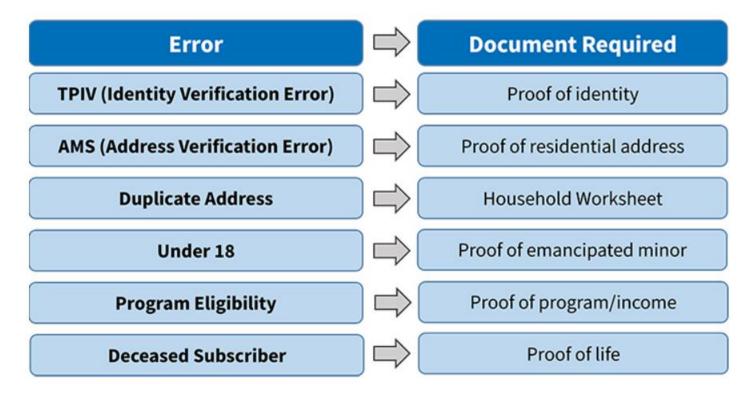
• Submitting documentation to resolve application errors initiates a manual review process by agents at the Lifeline Support Center



Consumers can check their application status or enrollment status
 online through the consumer portal, by contacting the Lifeline Support
 Center, or by checking with their service provider or Tribal user
 representative through whom they initially submitted their application

Application Errors

If a consumer receives one or more of the errors below, they will need to submit documentation to resolve the error



How to Resolve ErrorsUploading Documentation

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
Medicaid
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Public Housing Assistance
Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs
Tribal Specific Program (only choose if they live on tribal lands)
They don't participate in one of these programs, and want to qualify through income
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.

Tribal users will see this screen, which states that more information is needed from the consumer

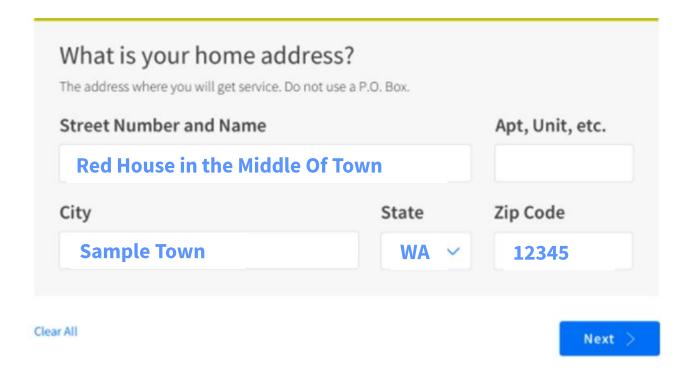
If the consumer is not found in the real time data source, they will need to choose a qualifying program and upload corresponding documents

Back



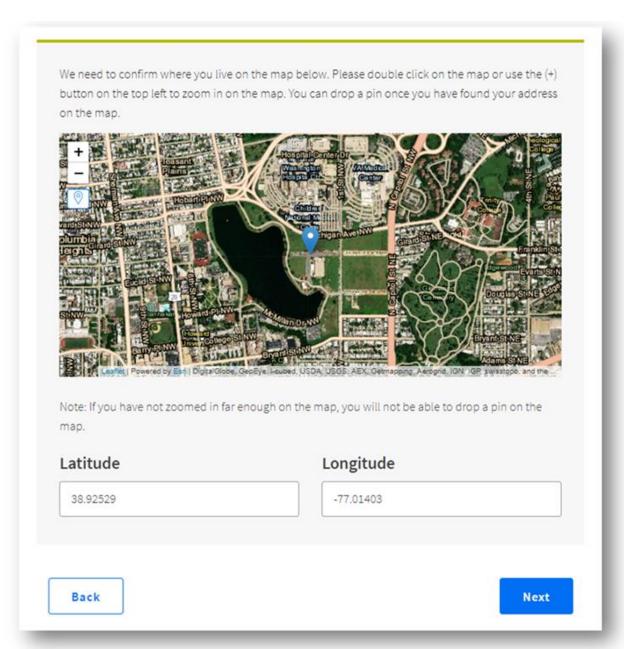
How to Resolve ErrorsResolve Errors - Address Error

- A consumer will receive an address error when USAC cannot verify the consumer's address against USPS's Address Matching System (AMS)
 - This often occurs because a consumer submits a descriptive address
- The consumer can submit information that verifies where they live
- Consumers may enter a descriptive address or the intersection near where they reside if they don't have a street number and/or name



How to Resolve Errors Resolve Errors - Address Error

- To resolve an address error in the NV portal, a consumer or Tribal user representative will be prompted to use the mapping tool
- The mapping tool will try to locate the consumer's home
 - The consumer can drop the pin to locate where they live
 - The coordinates automatically populate



How to Resolve Errors Resolve Errors - Program Eligibility

- Documentation for qualifying programs must include:
 - The consumer's name, or the name of the consumer's benefit qualifying person (BQP);
 - The name of the Lifeline-qualifying program, such as SNAP;
 - The name of the government or Tribal program administrator or managed care organization (MCO) that issued the document
 - An issue date within the last 12 months or a future expiration date that aligns with the benefit period

How to Resolve Errors Resolve Errors - Program Eligibility

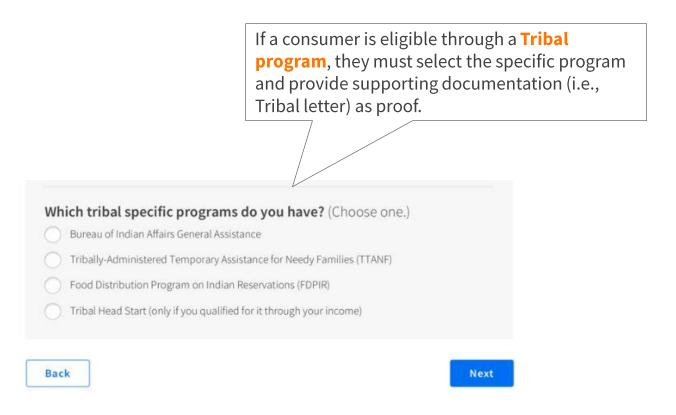
• Examples of **qualifying program** documentation:

Award letter, screenshot of government application or website showing eligibility, benefit or case portal screenshot, or Medicaid card

We Need More Information

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

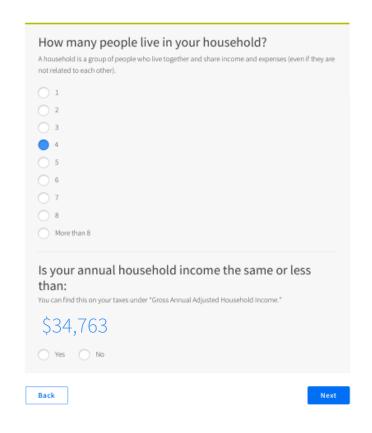
Are you in any of these? You will need to show proof that you are in the program you choose.
Choose one.
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps
Medicaid
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Federal Public Housing Assistance
Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs
Tribal 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. ?



How to Resolve Errors Resolve Errors - Income Eligibility

- Documentation for income must:
 - Cover a full year of income or the consumer must present the documentation covering three consecutive months of income within the previous 12 months *
- Examples of Documentation:
 - Prior year's state, federal or Tribal tax return
 - Current income statement from your employer or a paycheck stub
 - Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance

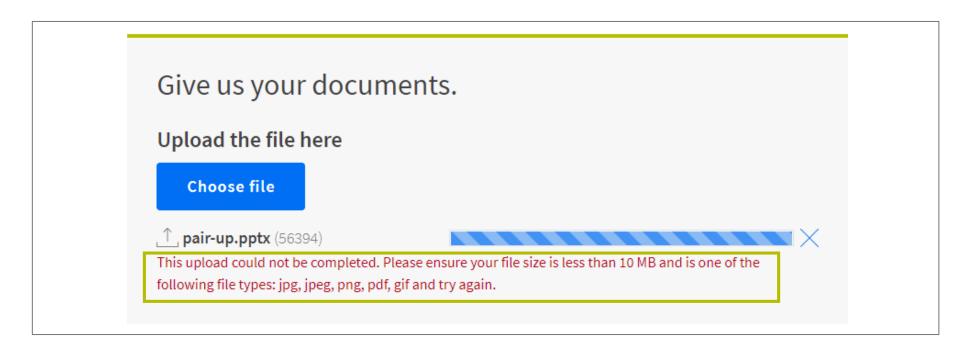
Show That You Qualify Through Your Income



^{*} The FCC and USAC have created flexibility around income eligibility documentation during the pandemic so that, through December 31, 2021, consumers who do not have three consecutive months of income documentation may provide an official document that confirms their current income information

How to Resolve Errors Document Upload Error Message

If a document is not of an acceptable file type or size, the system will display an error message



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

How to Resolve Errors Pending Review

- After uploading the consumer's documents, the system will display the message on the right regarding the manual review process
- Tribal uses representatives can check the consumer's status via the NV portal account dashboard
- 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 submitted.

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 Lifeline Subscriber in NLAD.

If they do not qualify...

We'll ask for more information or tell you what to do next. You will have until 3/23/2019 (Based on US Eastern Time) to send us the information or complete the next steps.

How to Resolve ErrorsResolve 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 wxxx.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.

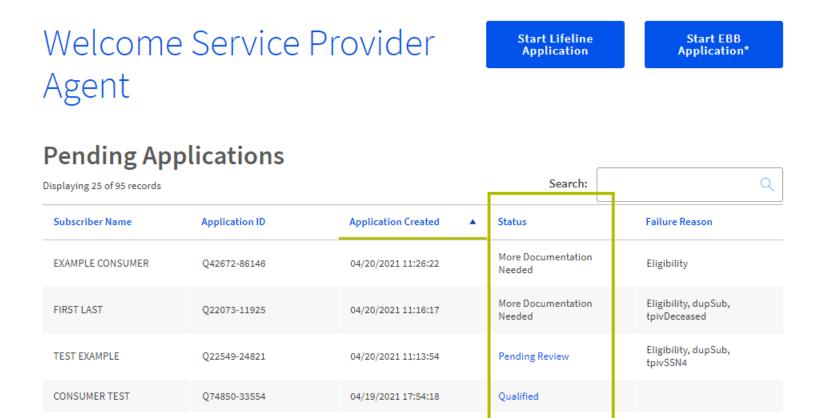
If the consumer received this eligibility error and would **like** to transfer their Lifeline benefit, they are able to complete this process with their new chosen service provider

Questions?

How to Check Application Status

Check the Status of a NV Application

Tribal users representatives-can see the status of a consumer application on their home page:

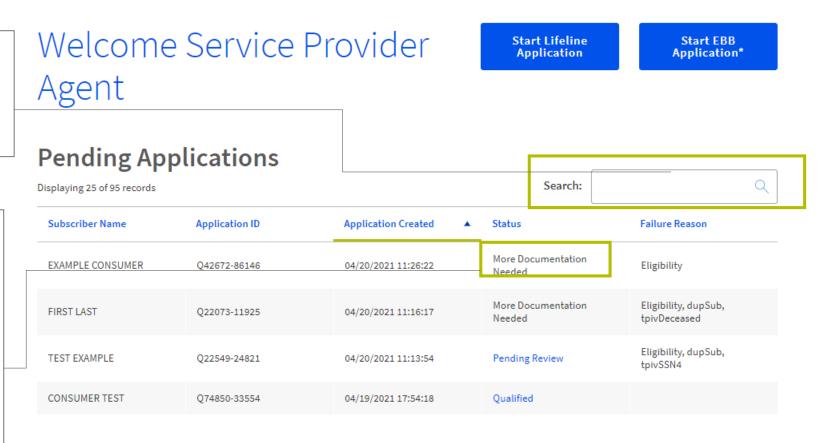


Check the Status of a NV Application Review Eligibility Status – More Documents Needed

Use the **search function** to find a consumer's application. A consumer can be searched by entering their First Name, Last Name, or Application ID

If the consumer's application has an error that requires submitting documentation, a "More Documentation Needed" status will appear

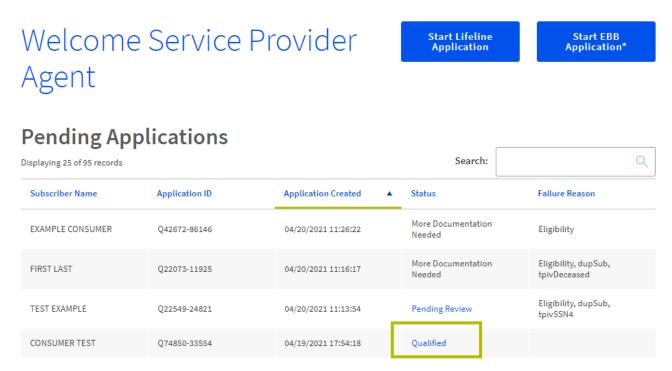
 Select "Start Lifeline Application" and re-enter the consumer's PII to submit documentation



Check the Status of a NV Application Review Eligibility Status - Qualified

If the consumer is eligible, the applicant's eligibility status will update to "Qualified" on the dashboard.

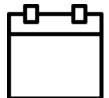
The Tribal user representative cannot enroll the consumer, but this information can be used
by the service provider of the consumer's choice to enroll them in the program.



ResourcesUSAC's Websites

- USAC has two websites available:
 - Lifeline's consumer website: <u>LifelineSupport.org</u>
 - USAC's Lifeline website for service providers, state and federal partners, consumer advocates, and **Tribal partners**: <u>usac.org/lifeline</u>

Upcoming Quarterly Tribal Webinars



- All webinars from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET
 - <u>Lifeline Tribal Webinar Q4</u> on **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

Consumer Educational Material



Tribal Flyer – <u>Click to View</u>



Tribal Toolkit – Click to View

Lifeline Support Center



• Email: LifelineSupport@usac.org



• **Call**: (800) 234-9473 (press 1 for English; press 2 for Spanish)

Lifeline Support Center

• **Hours**: 7 days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET

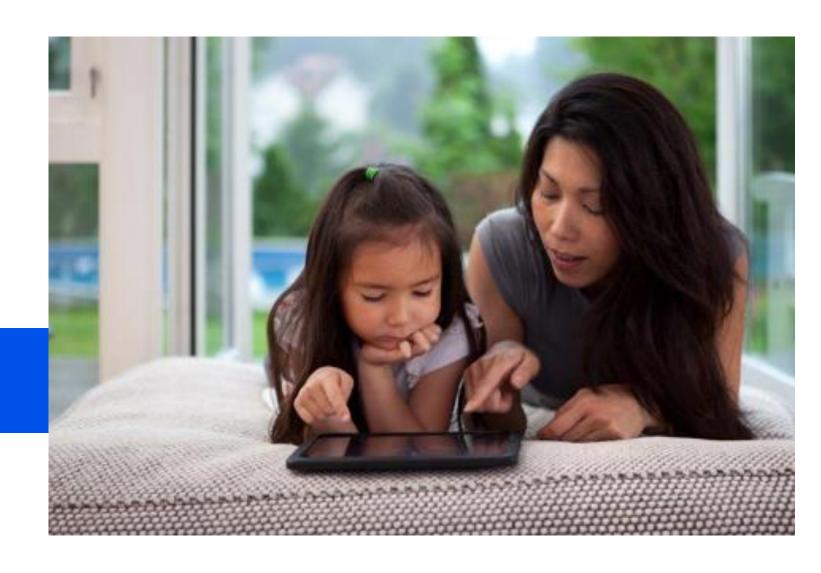
Support:

- Consumers with disabilities who need help submitting a Lifeline application may contact the support center for assistance
- The Lifeline Support Center can now assist consumers in 200 different languages (in addition to English and Spanish)

ResourcesUSAC Tribal Liaison

- Email USAC's Tribal Liaison at TribalLiaison@usac.org
 - If you need help connecting to a Lifeline program analyst
 - If you have feedback
 - If you have questions about any of the USAC programs
 - If you want to say hi

Questions?



Thank You!

