



November 22, 2019

North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: SRT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF REVISION – LIFELINE

Effective December 1, 2019, SRT Communications, Inc. ("SRT") will revise Section 2, Sheets 7 – 12, regarding Lifeline and Linkup Service.

Mainly, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") has reduced the Lifeline Support amount of \$9.25 to \$7.25 for Fixed Voice Service. SRT has made our Fixed Voice Service Lifeline customers aware of the change in their support. The Fixed Broadband monthly support of \$9.25 does not change; however, there are changes to the Broadband minimum service standards as required by the FCC.

Attached is Section 2, Sheets 7 – 14 of SRT's General Exchange Tariff.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Lizotte", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Julie Lizotte
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

**LOCAL SERVICE
LIFELINE SERVICE – FIXED VOICE AND FIXED BROADBAND
NON-TRIBAL LANDS**

A. General

1. The Federal Communications Commission and the North Dakota Public Service Commission require that an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier must offer Lifeline assistance to non-Tribal Land customers, and Enhanced Lifeline and Link-up assistance for Tribal Land customers. Tribal Lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony.
2. Lifeline service means qualifying low income subscribers pay reduced charges for residential local telecommunications service; either wireline voice, wireless voice, wireline (fixed) broadband or wireless broadband service. A subscriber can receive a Lifeline discount on only one service.
3. Lifeline assistance is not available when a subscriber is already receiving one or more Lifeline services concurrently, or one or more subscribers in a household are receiving Lifeline services concurrently.
4. Voice Lifeline service includes voice grade access to the public switched network, minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users, access to emergency 911 and enhanced 911 service to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems, and toll limitation at no charge to qualifying low-income consumers.
5. Fixed Broadband Lifeline will provide, at a minimum, usage allowance of 1024 GB per month at 20/3 Mbps upload/download speeds for home internet plans. In those areas where 20/3 Mbps download/upload speeds are not offered, the highest performing speeds available will be offered, but no less than 4/1 Mbps.
6. A service deposit shall not be collected in order to initiate Lifeline service if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking.
7. All Lifeline customers will be required to recertify on an annual basis.

**LOCAL SERVICE
LIFELINE SERVICE – FIXED VOICE AND FIXED BROADBAND
NON-TRIBAL LANDS**

B. Program Based Eligibility

1. A subscriber can receive the Lifeline assistance by providing documented proof of participation in one of the below programs from a qualifying assistance program, a notice or letter of participation in a qualifying assistance program, or another official document demonstrating that the prospective subscriber, one or more of the prospective subscriber's dependents or the prospective subscriber's household receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program. The National Lifeline Verifier must be utilized when applying for Lifeline.
2. Eligible programs include:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program

C. Income Based Eligibility

1. A qualifying low-income subscriber is eligible to receive Lifeline assistance by certifying under the Income-Based method. The subscriber's household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) will be the point of reference to determine the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The income of all household members will be used to determine eligibility. The National Lifeline Verifier must be utilized when applying for Lifeline.
2. Acceptable income documentation includes:
 - Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
 - Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
 - Social security statement of benefits
 - Veterans administration statement of benefits
 - A retirement/pension statement of benefits
 - An Unemployment/Workers' Compensation Statement of Benefits
 - Child Support, Divorce Decree, or other official document containing income information

*If a subscriber shows documentation of income that does not cover a full year, such as current pay stubs, they must provide documentation that covers three months in a row within the past twelve months.

**LOCAL SERVICE
LIFELINE SERVICE – FIXED VOICE AND FIXED BROADBAND
NON-TRIBAL LANDS**

D. Lifeline Support Amount

1. Monthly Federal Lifeline support for Fixed Voice-only and Fixed Broadband are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Fixed Voice Only</u>	<u>Fixed Broadband</u>
12/1/16	\$9.25	\$9.25
12/1/17	\$9.25	\$9.25
12/1/18	\$9.25	\$9.25
12/1/19	\$7.25	\$9.25
12/1/20	\$5.25	\$9.25
12/1/21	\$0.00	\$9.25

LOCAL SERVICE
LIFELINE SERVICE – FIXED VOICE AND FIXED BROADBAND
TRIBAL LANDS

A. General

1. The Federal Communications Commission and the North Dakota Public Service Commission require that an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier must offer Lifeline assistance to non-Tribal Land customers, and Enhanced Lifeline and Link-up assistance for Tribal Land customers. Tribal Lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony.
2. Lifeline service means qualifying low income subscribers pay reduced charges for residential local telecommunications service; either wireline voice, wireless voice, wireline (fixed) broadband or wireless broadband service. A subscriber can receive a Lifeline discount on only one service.
3. Lifeline assistance is not available when a subscriber is already receiving one or more Lifeline services concurrently, or one or more subscribers in a household are receiving Lifeline services concurrently.
4. Voice Lifeline service includes voice grade access to the public switched network, minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge to end users, access to emergency 911 and enhanced 911 service to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems, and toll limitation at no charge to qualifying low-income consumers.
5. Fixed Broadband Lifeline will provide, at a minimum, usage allowance of 1024 GB per month at 20/3 Mbps upload/download speeds for home internet plans. In those areas where 20/3 Mbps download/upload speeds are not offered, the highest performing speeds available will be offered, but no less than 4/1 Mbps.
6. A service deposit shall not be collected in order to initiate Lifeline service if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking.
7. All Lifeline customers will be required to recertify on an annual basis.

**LOCAL SERVICE
LIFELINE SERVICE – FIXED VOICE AND FIXED BROADBAND
TRIBAL LANDS**

B. Program Based Eligibility

1. A subscriber can receive the Lifeline assistance by providing their current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying assistance program, a notice or letter of participation in a qualifying assistance program, program participation documents, or another official document demonstrating that the prospective subscriber, one or more of the prospective subscriber's dependents or the prospective subscriber's household receives benefits from a qualifying assistance program. The National Lifeline Verifier must be utilized when applying for Lifeline.
2. Eligible programs include:
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program
 - Tribal HEAD Start
 - Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 - Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance

C. Income Based Eligibility

1. A qualifying low-income subscriber is eligible to receive Lifeline assistance by certifying under the Income-Based method. The subscriber's household income must be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) will be the point of reference to determine the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The subscriber must complete SRT's Assistance Application, provide SRT income documentation, and certify the number of household members. The income of all household members will be used to determine eligibility. The National Lifeline Verifier must be utilized when applying for Lifeline.
2. Acceptable income documentation includes:
 - Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
 - Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
 - Social security statement of benefits
 - Veterans administration statement of benefits
 - A retirement/pension statement of benefits
 - An Unemployment/Workers' Compensation Statement of Benefits
 - Child Support, Divorce Decree, or other official document containing income information
 - Federal or Tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance

*If a subscriber shows documentation of income that does not cover a full year, such as current pay stubs, they must provide documentation that covers three months in a row within the past twelve months.

**LOCAL SERVICE
LIFELINE SERVICE – FIXED VOICE AND FIXED BROADBAND
TRIBAL LANDS**

D. Enhanced Lifeline Support Amount

1. Monthly Federal Lifeline support for Fixed Voice-only and Fixed Broadband are as follows:

Date	Fixed Voice Only	Fixed Broadband
12/1/16	\$9.25	\$9.25
12/1/17	\$9.25	\$9.25
12/1/18	\$9.25	\$9.25
12/1/19	\$7.25	\$9.25
12/1/20	\$5.25	\$9.25
12/1/21	\$0.00	\$9.25

2. In addition to the Lifeline support indicated above, Enhanced Lifeline Assistance for residents of Tribal Lands are eligible to receive an additional \$25 in support. The total amount of Enhanced Lifeline support cannot exceed the amount of the Residential Local Line Charge.

G. Enhanced Linkup Support Amount

1. A resident of Tribal Lands who is eligible to receive Enhanced Lifeline is also eligible to receive Expanded Link Up.
2. A 100 percent reduction, up to \$100, of the customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection.
3. An eligible resident of Tribal lands may receive the benefit of the Enhanced Tribal Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for otherwise qualifying commencement of telecommunications service at a principal place of residence with an address different from the address for which Tribal Link Up assistance was provided previously.