

Lifeline & Link-Up Assistance Programs

from Ridgeville Telephone Company

Do you need phone service? Are you having trouble paying your telephone bills? If so, you may be eligible to take advantage of two special programs that help reduce the cost of phone service.

Lifeline Assistance and Link-Up can help qualified customers get phone service and pay their bills. These are public programs implemented by Ridgeville Telephone Company that help eligible households pay for basic telephone hook-up costs and monthly services.

You may be qualified if your household income is no more than 150 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines or if you participate in any of the following programs:

- Medical Assistance under Chapter 5111 of the Ohio Revised Code (Medicaid) or any state program that might supplant Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act
- Social security disability insurance – blind and disabled (SSDI)
- Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP, HEAP & E-HEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental nutritional assistance program (SNAP/Food Stamps)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/Ohio Works)
- National School Lunch Free Lunch Program (NSL)
- General assistance, including disability assistance (DA)

Lifeline Assistance will help qualified customers who already have telephone service save a significant amount of money on their monthly phone bills, while Link-Up helps eligible customers receive a generous discount on the installation of telephone service in their homes.

Lifeline benefits may be applied to only one type of service – landline or wireless – and is limited to one line per household. Qualifying customers must choose which service would best provide their needs.

Also, consumers can voluntarily forego presubscribed long distance telephone service by requesting toll-blocking, a service that prevents toll calls (such as long distance) from being made and prevents these consumers from paying hefty service deposits. Customers using this service can still use pre-paid calling cards or dial-around services to place long-distance calls from their homes.

For more information, or to find out if you qualify for the programs, call Ridgeville Telephone Company at 419-267-5185.