

Lifeline

Burke's Garden Telephone Company participates in the federal Link-Up America and Lifeline Assistance programs which are available to qualifying low-income subscribers. Lifeline Assistance enables eligible low-income subscribers to receive flat-rate support of \$9.25 per line for service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Each state has its own guidelines to qualify. The application and qualification process differs by state and sometimes by individual phone company.

How much can I save on my phone bill?

You will save \$9.25 on your basic monthly bill if you qualify. These benefits apply to your local telephone service charges that you purchase as a flat rate service. These benefits will also cover your subscriber line charge.

Lifeline discount does not apply to
Long Distance Calls.

How do I know if I am eligible?

To be eligible, a subscriber must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Low Income Program or participate in one of the following assistance programs or be Income Eligible: Medicaid, Food Stamps (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or National School Lunch Program's free lunch program to receive Lifeline assistance.

Based on the income-related eligibility criteria described below, you may qualify for this program. This means you may receive a monthly credit for your voice telephone service. This Lifeline service also includes toll blocking to qualifying customers without charge.

How do I apply for the discount?

Complete the Lifeline Questionnaire and Worksheet below and return it to Burke's Garden Telephone Company with proof of eligibility as described in the Questionnaire.

Are there any restrictions?

The program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service.

What information do I need to provide to receive Lifeline benefits?

You will be asked to provide proof of your eligibility by providing a form signed under penalty of perjury that you receive benefits from or a copy of any dated document which verifies your participation in one of the qualifying programs listed above. Documentation can be obtained through your social worker or from the Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). Proof of total household income may be required for income-based qualification. Your Lifeline benefits will take effect when proof of eligibility is received.

How do I apply?

Certification forms may be obtained from the Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. Those claiming to qualify based on income must present acceptable documentation of the household income. Acceptable documentation includes: the prior year's tax return, current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, an Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation statement of benefits, federal or tribal notice letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support, or other official document. The program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain program benefits can be punished with a fine or imprisonment or barred from the program.

How do I continue to receive Lifeline benefits?

Eligibility is reviewed annually. Your benefits will be discontinued when you no longer meet the eligibility requirements according to the DHHR or when proof of eligibility is not received.

For more information visit <http://www.lifelinesupport.org/lis/> or call your local Burkes Garden Telephone Office at 276-472-2345.

Account Name _____

Account # _____

* A household is defined, for purposes of Lifeline, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. For more information on households, visit <http://www.universalservice.org/li/getting-service/benefits.aspx> or contact BGTCO.

For household income to be at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, total income for the household must not be more than the following:

Household Size	Household Income	Household Size	Household Income
1	\$14,621	5	\$34,817
2	\$19,670	6	\$39,866
3	\$24,719	7	\$44,915
4	\$29,768	8	\$49,964

Add \$5,049 for each additional person beyond 8

Account Name _____

Account # _____

Burke's Garden Telephone Co. Inc

What is Lifeline Telephone Service? Lifeline service is a federal government benefit intended to assist in making telephone service affordable for all residential customers. The following summary describes how the program works

Who is eligible for Lifeline Discounts? In order to be eligible for the discount, the applicant must participate in one of seven programs or be *Income Eligible*: Medicaid, Food Stamps (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Federal Public Housing Assistance, or National School Lunch Program's free lunch program to receive Lifeline assistance.

How do I apply for the discount? Complete the application below and return it to BGTCO with proof of eligibility as described in the application.

Do any restrictions apply? Please be aware that BGTCO will periodically confirm that your lifeline discount eligibility is still in effect. If you are no longer eligible, you will be notified that your discount will be discontinued. Also, only one discount is allowed per household* and only from one provider.

Name of _____ (Please Print)

Recipient: _____ My home telephone number

Physical Address: _____ Apt. #: _____ (____) _____ - _____

City: _____ State: ____ ZipCode: _____ Contact number

Recipient Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____ (____) _____ - _____

Recipient Date of Birth: _____ (MM/DD/YYYY)

Are there multiple households* at this address: _____ # of people in household*: _____

(See back page for more information on households)

I am now receiving assistance from the following programs (check all that apply to you). Please indicate if the benefit recipient is a household member other than yourself:

- Medicaid Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Public Housing Assistance**
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- National School Lunch free lunch program**

I am not participating in one of these programs but my household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. See table on back page for more information.**

Please read and sign the following statement: I certify under penalty of perjury that the above information is correct. I understand that willfully making false statements to obtain the benefit can result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or being barred from the program. I authorize Burke's Garden Telephone Co. Inc to access any records necessary to verify my eligibility for the Lifeline discount. I give permission for any agency to release information that will help verify my eligibility in these programs. I understand that if I am no longer eligible, my lifeline discount will be discontinued. I acknowledge and consent to Burke's Garden Telephone Co. Inc providing my name, telephone #, and address to USAC (administrator of the Lifeline program) and/or its agents, for the purpose of verifying that I do not receive more than Lifeline benefit.

Date: _____ Signature of Recipient or Guardian

Important Notice:

You must prove your eligibility to one of these programs to subscribe to Lifeline. **Documentation will be required for the following programs: National School Lunch free lunch program, Federal Public Housing Assistance, and the Income eligibility.** All others do not require documentation and we will verify participation in those programs through our office. **ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED.**