



NEW APPLICATION



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Valley Telephone Cooperative Cop

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Valley Telecommunications - Internet - Business Systems

March 23, 2012

2012 MAR 26 P 3:55

Docket Control  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

RE: Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. T-01847A - Lifeline and Link Up Update

Dear Corporation Commissioners and Staff:

T-01847A-12-0112

Enclosed for review and approval of the Arizona Corporation Commission is a revision to Section 5-7 (Low-Income Assistance Programs) of Valley Telephone Cooperative's ACC Tariff No. 2. This revision updates the tariff to comply with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Docket No. FCC-12-11, Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization.

The following changes are effective April 1, 2012:

1. ETCs Federal Lifeline Support will equal \$9.25 per month for each eligible non-Tribal Lifeline subscriber; and
2. Link Up support will no longer be available to subscribers in our non-Tribal service area.

It is respectfully requested that this filing become effective on April 1, 2012.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, I am submitting one original and thirteen copies of the tariff revisions.

An additional copy of this filing is also enclosed. Please stamp this copy received and return it in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

Please return approved stamped tariff sheets to me at:

Virgil Barnard  
Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 970  
Willcox, AZ 85644

If any questions arise, please contact me directly at 520-384-8932.

Sincerely,

Virgil Barnard  
Contracts & Compliance Manager

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

MAR 26 2012

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Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(A) Low-Income Assistance Programs consist of federal and state assistance. The Arizona Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program (ALITAP) is assistance offered by the state of Arizona. Lifeline Assistance is the program which offers federal assistance. These programs were developed to reduce rates for low income customers. The Company participates in all of these assistance programs to increase the availability of telecommunications services to all consumers in its serving areas. The structure of each program is outlined in the following paragraphs. CT

(B) Arizona Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program (ALITAP)

(1) Definition

The Arizona Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program provides for a credit against the recurring monthly rate for the provision of local residential service for certain low-income customers.

(2) Application

(a) The Arizona Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program credit is only available to low-income customers who meet eligibility requirements established by A.R.S. 42-5016, 46-701, 702, 703, 704. Applicants must be a head of household, be sixty-five (65) years of age or older, and have a household income at or below poverty level.<sup>5</sup> CT

<sup>5</sup> Low-income customers who qualify under ALITAP will receive the federal Lifeline support amount of \$9.25. For example, if the 17% discount in local service charges contributed by the state equaled \$2.00, then a total of \$9.25 in federal Lifeline support and \$2.00 in state Lifeline support would be available to ALITAP customers under A.R.S. § 46.703. CT  
CT  
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Issuing Officer: Steve Metts, CEO & General Manager, Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(B) Arizona Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program (ALITAP)

(2) Application (Cont'd)

(b) The monthly credit will be based on the sum of a 17% discount on the following local exchange service offerings where applicable:

- Flat rate individual service
- Flat rate multiparty service
- Low Use Option Service
- Monthly increments
- Local area calling Usage<sup>6</sup>
- Maintenance of inside wiring
- Service station service

(3) Regulations

(a) The Arizona Low-Income Telephone Assistance Program credit will begin with the date the Company receives a valid application from the customer or when new service is established for a qualifying customer. The credit will be prorated on the basis of a 30-day month from the effective date of the customer's application.

(b) The regular service and equipment charges and regulations applicable to these service offerings specified in the tariff will apply. The service and equipment charges to change to or from this program due to eligibility status will be waived.

(c) Customers of this service will receive a seventeen (17) percent reduction on the service and equipment charge once during the calendar year. The credit is applicable only to the customer's principle residence line.

(C) Lifeline Assistance – General

Lifeline Assistance reduces an eligible customer's monthly rates for local service. An eligible customer receives credit for the Federal Subscriber Line Charge as well credit towards the residential access line rate.

<sup>6</sup>Local area calling usage receives a discount limited to an amount that in addition to the exchange access service does not exceed the comparable flat rate total.

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5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(D) Lifeline Assistance – Regulations

(1) Lifeline Assistance is available to all residential customers who meet the following eligibility requirements:

(a) Customers must participate in one of the following programs:

Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), federal public housing assistance or Section 8 (a Federal Housing Assistance Program administered by the Department of Urban Development), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (TANF), the National School Lunch free lunch program (NSL), State Children Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) (KidsCare), or

Have household income that is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(b) To receive benefits, customers must sign under penalty of perjury a document certifying as follows:

(i) He/she is receiving benefits from one of the programs in 5.7(D)(1)(a) above or he/she has household income that is at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

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5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(D) Lifeline Assistance – Regulations (Cont'd)

(1) Lifeline Assistance – Requirements (Cont'd)

(b) Certification to receive benefits (Cont'd)

(ii) He/she must provide the name of the program from which he/she is receiving benefits or provide supporting documents showing his/her household income is at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. The supporting documents must be one of the following 1) prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, 2) current income statements from an employer or paycheck stub, 3) a Social Security statement of benefits, 4) a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, 5) a retirement/pension statement of benefits, 6) an Unemployment/Workman's Compensation statement of benefits, 7) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program, 8) a divorce decree of child support document. If he/she chooses to submit anything other than the prior year's income tax return, he/she must then present three consecutive months of the alternate supporting documentation selected that is within the most recent twelve consecutive months.

(iii) He /she will notify the company if he/she no longer participates in the program named in 5.7 (D) (1) (a) above or if his/her household income increases above 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(2) As a participant in Lifeline Assistance, customers are eligible to receive Toll Restriction Service at no charge. This service will only be provided at the customer's request.

(3) Local Service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Restriction Service.

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5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(D) Lifeline Assistance – Regulations (Cont'd)

- (4) Participants in Lifeline Assistance shall not be disconnected from Local Service for non-payment of toll charges. In addition, the company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Reconnection will provide access to local calling only unless and until payment of all charges due for outstanding toll billing, including late charges and applicable interest, is made. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if an outstanding balance is owed by the customer for local service.
- (5) Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers will first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.
- (6) Verification of customer continuing eligibility shall be performed by the Company *R7* on an annual basis.
- (7) Records will be maintained by the Company in accordance with the Arizona Corporation Commission Decision No. 67941 and 47 C.F.R. Part 54.417 of the Federal Communication Commission's rules. *C*
- (8) A customer is not eligible for Lifeline Assistance from the company if he/she is currently receiving Lifeline credit for services provided by another Eligible Telecommunications Carrier. Each household (economic unit) may receive credit *C7* for Lifeline Assistance from only one Eligible Telecommunications Carrier at any *CT* time. *CT*

(E) Lifeline Assistance – Credits

The credits for Low-Income Assistance Program are as set forth in Section 20.5 (c)(1),(2).

(F) RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE.

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5. Local Exchange Access Service

5.7 Low-Income Assistance Programs (Effective 01/01/98)

(G) Limitation of Liability for Administering Lifeline Assistance

C7

The Company shall use reasonable efforts to (1) safeguard personal information provided by a customer in connection with an application for the company's Lifeline Assistance program; and (2) properly determine a customer's eligibility to participate in the Company's Lifeline Assistance programs. The Company shall not be liable to a customer for any damages (actual, consequential or punitive) arising as a result of (a) the Company's unintentional or accidental disclosure to a third party of a customer's personal information provided in connection with an application for the Company's Lifeline Assistance programs; or (b) the Company's erroneous determination regarding a customer's eligibility or ineligibility to participate in the Company's Lifeline Assistance programs. In the event the Company erroneously denies a customer's application to participate in the Company's Lifeline Assistance program, the customer shall be entitled to a bill credit equal to the amount of the monthly discount applied from the date of the customer's application through the date of actual enrollment in the Lifeline Assistance program.

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Issuing Officer: Steve Metts, CEO & General Manager, Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Local Access Service

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Source</u>
20. <u>Rates and Charges</u>		
20.4 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE		
20.5 Local Exchange Access Service		
(A) Local Exchange Access Service		
(1) Residential Service Per Access Line (1)	\$13.75	
(2) Business Service (Including PABX and Key System Trunks) Per Access Line (1)	\$19.75	
(B) Vacation Rate Service Per Access Line	½ of Monthly Access Service Charges	5.6(C)
(C) Low-Income Assistance Program Monthly Credit		<u>Monthly Credit</u> \$9.25
<p>Credit for Low-Income Assistance Program will first offset the Federal Subscriber Line Charge with the remainder offsetting the Residential Local Exchange rate. At no time may the credit exceed the total of the Subscriber Line charge and the Residential Local Exchange rate.</p>		
20.6 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE		

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