

ORIGINAL NEW APPLICATION



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November 1, 2016

Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2927

T-01072A-16-0395

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED
NOV 02 2016

**RE: Southwestern Telephone Company;
Revisions to Low-Income Assistance Programs Tariff**

DOCKETED BY *R.A.*

Docket Control:

Enclosed please find the original and 13 copies of the following tariff sheet (s):

- Section 5**
- Seventh Revised Sheet 10**
- Sixth Revised Sheet 11**
- Fourth Revised Sheet 11.1**

The purpose of this filing is to revise the Low-Income Assistance Programs tariff to comply with the FCC's Lifeline Modernization Order released on April 27, 2016 (WC Docket No. 11-42).

The proposed effective date for this filing is December 2, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (608) 664-4169.

Sincerely,

Rachelle A. Ladwig
Senior Administrator - Tariffs

Enclosures

GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

SOUTHWESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY
Arizona

Section 5
Seventh Revised Sheet 10
Cancels Sixth Revised Sheet 10

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIFELINE)

Lifeline Assistance was developed to reduce rates for low income customers. The Company participates in this assistance program to increase the availability of telecommunications services to all consumers in its serving areas. The structure of the program is outlined in the following paragraphs.

1. Lifeline Assistance

a. 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 as a credit towards the residential access line rate.

b. Regulations

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

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

Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), (T)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing (T)
Assistance, Veteran's and Survivor's Pension Benefit, or (T)

Have household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal (T)
Poverty Guidelines.

⁽¹⁾ State support is provided in accordance with A.R.S 46.703. (T)

GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

SOUTHWESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY
Arizona

Section 5
Sixth Revised Sheet 11
Cancels Fifth Revised Sheet 11

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Continued)

1. Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

b. Regulations (Continued)

2) The customer must sign under penalty of perjury, a document certifying:

- a) He/she is receiving benefits from one of the programs in 1.b.1 a) above or he/she has household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (T)
- b) He/she must provide the name of the program from which they are receiving benefits with supporting documents showing their program participation or provide supporting documents showing their household income is at or below 135% 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 or child support document. If the customer chooses to submit anything other than the prior year's income tax return, they must then present three consecutive month's of the alternate supporting documentation selected that is within the most recent twelve consecutive months. (T)
- c. That he/she will notify the company if he/she no longer participates in the program named in b. preceding or if their household income increases above 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (T)
- 3) A customer is not eligible for Lifeline from the Company if he/she is currently receiving Lifeline credit for service from another Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Local service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Restriction Service.

ISSUED: November 2, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

BY: Joel Dohmeier, Vice-President

GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

SOUTHWESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY
Arizona

Section 5
Fourth Revised Sheet 11.1
Cancels Third Revised Sheet 11.1

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Continued)

1. Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

b. Regulations (Continued)

- 6) 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. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if an outstanding balance is owed by the customer for local service.
- 7) Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers will first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.
- 8) Verification of a customer's continuing eligibility shall be performed by the Company on an annual basis.
- 9) Records will be maintained by the Company in accordance with Arizona Corporation Commission Decision No. 67941 and FCC C.F.R. 54.417.
- 10) One Lifeline discount is allowed per household. The FCC defines "household" as any individual or group living together at the same address as one economic unit.

c. Credits

The following credits* will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance:

	<u>Monthly Credit*</u>	
1) Federal Lifeline Assistance Benefit	(1)	(T)
2) State Lifeline Assistance Benefit	(2)	(C)

* Credit amount will not exceed the total of the Subscriber Line Charge and the Residential Local Exchange rate.

(1) Authorized FCC rate.

(2) State support is provided in accordance with A.R.S. 46.703. DES instructs the Company on which accounts the benefits are to be applied to.

(C)
(C)

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