

# TRA Telephone Assistance Programs

To ensure that telephone service is available and affordable for low income telephone subscribers, the TRA established Link-up and Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs. Now with additional ways to qualify, Link-up and Lifeline programs are even more available to those who need it most.

- **Link-up** will pay half of the installation charges for new telephone service, to a maximum of \$30.00. To further reduce the initial cost to establish new telephone service, you can request your local telephone company to spread the balance of the installation charge over a period of months. You will not be required to pay a deposit if you request "local service only" and "long distance block" when connecting service under Link-up.
- **Lifeline** will provide a discount of up to \$13.50 per month on the local service portion of your telephone bill. Selecting the lowest cost residential service plan offered by the local telephone company ensures an affordable monthly telephone bill. This program does not provide discounts for long distance charges or special features such as Caller ID or Call Waiting.

## Who is eligible for Link-up and Lifeline?

The qualifications for Link-up and Lifeline are the same. You automatically qualify if you:

- Presently receive **Food Stamps, TennCare Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**, or for BellSouth and Sprint United/EMBARQ customers, you also qualify if you receive **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), National Free School Lunch or live in Federal Housing/Section 8**. If you do not receive any of these public assistance programs, you may qualify if your total household gross monthly income is equal or less than the following:

### Gross Monthly Income Table Use To Qualify Based On Income

# of Household Members	*Monthly Income 125% of the Federal Poverty Level	*Monthly Income 135% of the Federal Poverty Level For Customers of BellSouth or EMBARQ (formerly Sprint-United)
1	\$1,128	\$1,217
2	1,517	1,638
3	1,907	2,060
4	2,296	2,480
5	2,686	2,900
for each additional person add	389	420

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\* BASED ON THE 2009 FEDERAL REGISTER FOR POVERTY LEVEL INCOME STANDARDS (PLIS).

### **How do you apply?**

- If you receive one of the above public assistance programs, call your local telephone company. Your local telephone company will provide you with an application or request proof that you receive on of the above benefits.

**OR**

- If you do not receive assistance from one of the above public assistance programs, and you qualify using the above gross monthly income table, call the TRA at 1-800-342-8359.

The TRA encourages qualifying Tennessee residents to apply for the Link-up and Lifeline Telephone Assistance Programs and take advantage of the available discounts.



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