



April 10, 2012

Dear Local Official:

Effective April 1, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission has ended Link-Up subsidies, which were part of the federal universal service program for low-income consumers and paid up to half the cost of installation or activation of a local phone line for these low-income consumers. The elimination of Link-Up is part of an FCC order that modernized the Lifeline program.

In Illinois, after the elimination of Link-Up, the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation (UTAC) will continue to administer the FCC's Lifeline program for low-income consumers. Lifeline will provide a subsidy towards the monthly cost of telephone service. The monthly subsidy will be a flat \$9.25 each month, effective at a future date to be set by the FCC.

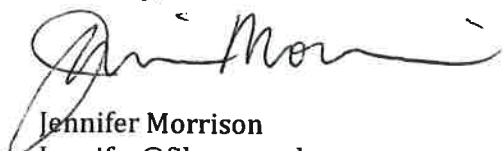
In addition to the Lifeline subsidy, UTAC will continue to administer Illinois' voluntary contribution program, which allows Lifeline subscribers to receive a \$5 reduction in the cost of installation of a wireline phone.

Lifeline subscribers currently must be participating in one of the following government programs in order to qualify for the monthly subsidy:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Supplemental Security Income
- Free National School Lunch Program
- Federal Public Housing

Beginning June 1, 2012, an additional qualifying factor will take effect, allowing households with incomes at or below a yet-to-be-established percentage of the poverty level to also qualify. For further information about the Lifeline or Illinois programs, please go to linkupillinois.org. Updates as federal decisions are made will also be available at this website.

Sincerely,



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