

FCC USF subsidized LIFELINE phone program. As of Jan 28, 2013

~ **Charter Cellular** (NOT part of this program)

~ **Verizon** Withdrew

~ **T-Mobile** If you have a T-Mobile plan, you can qualify for \$10 subsidy

~ **Century Link** (landline/fixed line) If you have a CenturyLink plan, you can qualify for \$10 subsidy

~ **Eligibility:** SNAP/EBT, SS, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, FPHA, Sec, 8, LIHEAP, NS Lunch program, TANF, MFIP, + gov. plan for low income. Or, income under 135% Federal Poverty guideline.

~ **Only ONE subsidized phone plan per household.** Each “economic unit” at an address may qualify. ie. Income, rent, food, + is NOT shared

~ **Life Wireless** (Telrite), marketed by “FreePhoneMN”. On ATT network). **NOT ATT program.** Phone obtainable only at an event. Replace phone with ATT compatible or ‘unlocked’ phone. SIM card replacement \$5. Gives free phone + 250 minutes/month. Texts count as minutes. Additional minutes can be purchased online or where MoneyGram is sold. (need a code)

~ **Assurance** (Virgin Mobile/ Sprint). Register online, fax, mail. Need to fax or mail copy of eligibility. Gives **250 minutes + 250 texts/month.** \$5 gives additional min and text (= 500 minutes + 500 texts). Additional plans available. Also, possible to add a “data” (internet) plan. If you have a Virgin Mobile plan, currently, you may keep your phone number. Add minutes with “Top Up” cards, available at, for example, Target, Walmart, Best Buy, and many convenience stores.

~ **Terracom** Register online

Approved, but not yet operational;

~ **Access Wireless** (i-Wireless)

~ **Standup Wireless** (Global Connection)

~ **Budget Phone** (Budget Prepay)

~Others, not yet approved: **Surety Wireless** (Assurance Home Phone Services); Gulf Coast; Cintex; US Connect; Q Link; Boomerang; Blue Jay Wireless; Likely Recommended for revocation; **Midwestern Telecommunications**; **Nexus**; **Safelink** (Tracfone)

A PERSONAL INFORMATION

The person below **MUST BE** the same person applying for Lifeline service. Please do not forget to sign the application in Section E.

First Name: _____ (Please Print Full First Name Clearly) Last Name: _____ (Please Print Full Last Name Clearly)

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Last 4 digits of SSN: Home Telephone Number: _____ (if applicable)

Email: _____

Home Address: Is this a temporary address?

Street Address: _____ (PO Boxes Cannot Be Accepted) Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mailing Address: (if different from above)

Street Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

COMPLETE SECTION B OR C

B PROGRAM-BASED ELIGIBILITY

Fill in bubbles for all programs that you or a household member are currently enrolled in. **You must provide proof of program participation (DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS).** This could include a copy of your benefit ID card, a copy of an eligibility letter from an authorized agency or current or prior year's statement of benefits.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
(Not the same as Social Security Benefits) | <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8) |

REMINDER: YOU MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

-OR-

C INCOME-BASED ELIGIBILITY

Calculate **TOTAL** household income by reporting the income of all adult persons residing in your home in the appropriate category. **REMINDER: YOU MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF INCOME (DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS).**

Household Size	Maximum Yearly Income
<input type="radio"/> 1	\$ 15,079
<input type="radio"/> 2	\$ 20,425
<input type="radio"/> 3	\$ 25,771
<input type="radio"/> 4	\$ 31,117
<input type="radio"/> 5	\$ 36,463
<input type="radio"/> _____	\$ _____

If you have more than 5 people in your household, write the number and add \$5,346 for each additional person on top of the \$36,463.

Proof of income reported: Choose an item from the list below and include it with your application.

Three consecutive months of one of these statements (from the previous 12 months): **-OR-**

One of these documents:

- Your pay stubs
- Social Security benefits statement
- Veterans Administration benefits statement
- Retirement/Pension benefits statement
- Unemployment/Workers' Compensation benefits statement

- Prior year's State or Federal income tax return
- Income statement from employer
- Federal letter of participation in General Assistance
- Divorce decree or child support document containing income

TURN OVER TO COMPLETE

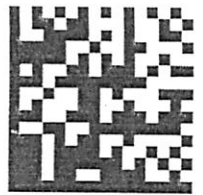


MN99999999999976

Mail the Application to: Assurance Wireless, PO Box 686, Parsippany, NJ 07054-9726

-OR-

Fax materials to: 1-877-732-3018



D ACCOUNT PIN & SECRET ANSWER

If you qualify, you'll be asked to enter your Account PIN whenever you access your Assurance Wireless account. If you ever forget your PIN, we'll ask you for your Secret Answer. To keep your service working, you will need to remember both of these answers. Please write them down for safekeeping.

CHOOSE YOUR ACCOUNT PIN:

Think of a secret 6-digit number that's easy to remember, keeping these rules in mind:

- No more than 3 consecutive numbers in a row (123456 won't work)
- No repeated numbers next to each other (445566 won't work)
- Numbers only (no symbols or letters)

Your Account PIN: _____

-AND-

CHOOSE YOUR SECRET ANSWER:

What is your favorite city?

Your Secret Answer: _____

E SIGNATURE

By signing below, I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained within this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false or fraudulent information to receive Lifeline benefits is punishable by law.

- I understand that Lifeline is a federal government benefit program and that willfully making a false statement or providing fraudulent documentation in order to obtain this government benefit may result in fines, imprisonment, de-enrollment or permanent removal from the program.
- I understand that only one Lifeline discounted service (landline or wireless) is available per household. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. A household is not permitted to receive Lifeline benefits from multiple providers. I understand that violation of the one-per-household rule constitutes a violation of federal rules and will result in de-enrollment from the Lifeline program and potential prosecution by the United States government.
- I understand that Lifeline is a non-transferable benefit. I will not transfer to any third party, including another eligible individual, any of the rights or benefits received under the Assurance Wireless service.
- I certify that I participate in a qualifying federal program or meet the income qualifications to establish eligibility for Lifeline. I have provided documentation as proof of eligibility for Section B or Section C.
- I certify that my household will receive only one Lifeline benefit. To the best of my knowledge, (i) my household is not already receiving a Lifeline benefit, or (ii) if I currently have a Lifeline Assistance plan with a different phone service provider, and if I am approved for Assurance Wireless service, I will notify my current provider that I am receiving a federal Lifeline Assistance benefit from Assurance Wireless.
- I certify that if I have provided a temporary address; Assurance Wireless will attempt to verify every 90 days that I continue to reside at that address, and I must notify Assurance Wireless within 30 days of any change of address. If I do not respond to Assurance Wireless' address verification attempts within 30 days, I may be de-enrolled from Assurance Wireless service.
- I certify that I will inform Assurance Wireless within 30 days of any of the following, and may be subject to penalties if I fail to do so:
 - I move to a new address.
 - I no longer participate in a Lifeline qualifying program or my annual household income exceeds 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
 - I become aware that my household is receiving more than one Lifeline benefit.
 - For any other reason, I no longer meet the criteria for federal Lifeline support.
- I authorize Assurance Wireless or its agent to access any records (including financial records) required to verify my statements herein and to confirm my eligibility for Assurance Wireless service. I authorize state or federal agency representatives to discuss with, and/or provide information to, Assurance Wireless verifying my participation in public assistance programs that qualify me for Assurance Wireless service.
- I authorize Assurance Wireless to provide access to or release any records required for the administration of Assurance Wireless service.
- I understand that the completion of this application does not constitute immediate approval for Assurance Wireless service.

YOU MUST INITIAL EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

- _____ No one in my household is receiving Lifeline benefits from another provider to my knowledge.
- _____ I understand that I may be required to re-certify continued eligibility for Lifeline at any time, and that failure to do so will result in the termination of my Lifeline benefits.
- _____ I consent to have my personal identification information shared with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) (the Lifeline Program administrator) and/or its agents for the purpose of confirming that neither I nor my household receives more than one Lifeline benefit.

X _____
SIGNATURE (Please use blue or black ink)

DATE: ____/____/____
mm/dd/yyyy

X _____
PRINTED NAME

- Have you remembered to initial and sign the Application?
- Have you remembered to attach copies of your documentation?



WELCOME!

PROGRAM
DESCRIPTIC

HOW TO QUALI

CHECK
AVAILABILITY

FAQS

CHECK
STATUS

LOG IN

ACTIVATE

Program Description

How Our Lifeline Phone Program Works

- 1 **250 FREE Voice Minutes & 250 FREE Texts** added automatically, you do nothing.
- 2 Add money if you decide to choose the \$5, \$20 or \$30 plan and to pay for any services, like additional minutes, additional texting or international calls.
- 3 Buy Virgin Mobile Top-Up cards from thousands of stores across the country. Or use credit, debit or PayPal.

All customers get

ALL PLANS INCLUDE TEXTS



**FREE Phone +
250 FREE Voice Minutes + 250 FREE Texts
Each Month**

Need more talk and text?

MONTHLY PLAN CHOICES

UNLIMITED Talk, Text, and Web
Add \$30 each month

1000 Minutes and 1000 Texts
Add \$20 each month
Get 250 Free Minutes & 250 Free Texts + 750 Minutes & 750 Texts

500 Minutes and 500 Texts
Add \$5 each month
Get 250 Free Minutes & 250 Free Texts + 250 Minutes & 250 Texts

Best Value in Calling Plans among Major Lifeline Assistance Programs*

Access to Other Offerings

If you decide to add money to your account with a Virgin Mobile Top-Up card or a credit/debit card, you can also take advantage of the following Virgin Mobile offerings:

HOW TO APPLY

By Phone

Call 1-888-898-4888 to request an application

By Mail or Fax

Print out [an application](#)

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Free Phone
- 250 FREE Voice Minutes & 250 FREE Texts guaranteed each month, as long as you remain eligible
- No Annual Contract (no bills or activation fees).
- Nationwide Sprint® Network Coverage
- Voicemail Account, Call Waiting, and Caller ID included
- 911 Access
- Calls to Customer Care are FREE

- * Additional voice minutes at 10¢ each
- * Additional text messages at 10¢ each
- * Messaging Packs as low as \$5 for 200 messages (only available for customers on plans that do not include texts)
- * 411 service at \$1.75 per call + standard airtime charges
- * International calling at great rates to over 200 countries
- * And so much more

Offer limited to eligible customers (varies by state) residing in selected geographic areas and is non-transferable. Assurance Wireless is brought to you by Virgin Mobile USA and is a Lifeline Assistance program supported by the federal Universal Service Fund program. One Lifeline Assistance phone line per household. Additional voice: 10c/min. Domestic text: 10c/message (sent or received). International & Data services may be extra per plan. Airtime charges apply when accessing voicemail via an Assurance Wireless phone once free minutes have been depleted. Minimum Top-Up of \$10 may be required. Account may expire 150 days after you receive notice of ineligibility for Assurance Wireless service and account balance may be forfeited. State and local sales taxes and fees may apply. Best Value Claim: Based on published price plans as of June 5, 2012 of major Lifeline carriers with more than 1M subscribers who provide service in more than 20 states. Coverage not available everywhere. Nationwide coverage area reaches more than 282 million people. Virgin Mobile USA network services are provided on the Nationwide Sprint® Network. Visit virginmobileusa.com to check coverage in your area. Assurance Wireless is subject to the Terms of Service (includes plan details) found on www.assurancewireless.com.

Service within nationwide coverage area reaching more than 282 million people. Assurance Wireless is not available in all areas. Coverage not available everywhere. Visit virginmobileusa.com for a detailed map and to check if service is available in your area.

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Phones & Rates

Handsets	Program Rates	Refill	International
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Upon signing up for Life Wireless service, customers receive a free handset including:

- Voicemail
- Text Messaging
- Call Waiting
- Three-way calling
- Call Forwarding
- Caller ID service
- No roaming charge
- No charge for domestic long distance calls



Hearing aid compatible phones available upon request to customer service.

Customers may also use their existing unlocked GSM phone by ordering a Life Wireless SIM card. This free SIM card can be inserted into the customer's handset and activated for immediate use.

WARRANTY EXCHANGE PHONE POLICY.

LIFE WIRELESS does not manufacture our mobile phones or other equipment and is not responsible for any damage or injury caused by mobile phones or other equipment. Customers shall have two years from the date of activation to return a defective or malfunctioning phone to LIFE WIRELESS. LIFE WIRELESS will replace the defective or malfunctioning phone with a new or refurbished handset once the customer returns the phone and the phone is inspected and deemed defective or malfunctioning at LIFE WIRELESS's discretion. For a defective or malfunctioning phone replacement, call LIFE WIRELESS Customer Service at 1-888-543-3620.

Phones & Rates

Handsets	Program Rates	Refill	International
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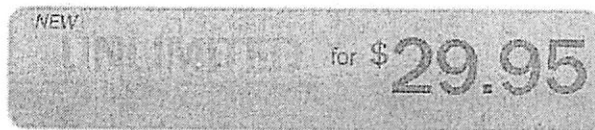
PIN Cards

Life Wireless customers can recharge their account [online](#) or at any [MoneyGram agent](#) nearest you.

Life Wireless Per-Minute Rates Options

Retail Price	Minutes	Text Rate
\$ 5.00 Refill	60 Anytime Minutes	3 per Minute of Talk
\$10.00 Refill	130 Anytime Minutes	3 per Minute of Talk
\$4.95 Refill	1-day Unlimited Talk & Text	Unlimited for 1 day
\$7.95 Refill	3-day Unlimited Talk & Text	Unlimited for 3 days
\$12.95 Refill	1-week Unlimited Talk & Text	Unlimited for 1 week
\$21.49 Refill	2-week Unlimited Talk & Text	Unlimited for 2 weeks
\$29.95 Refill	1-month Unlimited Talk & Text	Unlimited for 1 month

Recharge PINs: All card values shown below are available as electronic PINs (ePINs) that we will happily make available to you for loading into your Point-of-Sale Activation type systems. [Get more info on this here.](#)



Enjoy 30 days of Unlimited Talk & Text for only \$29.95. This plan is available for all Life Wireless customers.

Unlimited Talk & Text is restricted to domestic traffic only. International talk and text is not included in the unlimited calling plan. Recharge PINs valid for use with Life Wireless service only. See www.LifeWireless.com for details on our services and terms and conditions. Activated prepaid airtime cards and PINs are non-refundable. Traveling outside the network may result in no usage availability or multiple minute charges.

INFORMATION ABOUT FREE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED LIFELINE CELL PHONES

INTRODUCTION TO LIFELINE

The Lifeline program. Lifeline is a government supported program that provides free cell phone service to low-income people and has come to Minnesota in the past year. Cell phone companies will provide qualified customers with a new or refurbished cell phone as well as a set amount of airtime at no charge.

A Lifeline discount is also available for landline phones. Each household can have only one Lifeline phone, either landline or cell phone. If you want a discount on your landline phone, call your phone company and ask them how to get a Lifeline discount on your service.

A Lifeline cell phone, along with an Open Access Voice Mail, is a great way of keeping in touch with people. It is important to continue using your Open Access Voice Mail, as you don't have to worry about missing messages if your phone breaks or if you run out of minutes.

We will be highlighting 3 Lifeline programs for cell phones currently operating in Minnesota. 2 of these programs have just recently begun offering Lifeline services. To apply to Lifeline you will need a photo ID and proof of being in a government program such as Medicaid, Food Stamps/SNAP, Supplemental Security Income, Low Income Energy Assistance, MFIP, Section 8, or other government programs. You are also eligible if you are able to prove that you are below 135 % of the federal poverty level, which for a single adult is \$15,080. You are not allowed to be enrolled in more than one Lifeline program at a time. You can transfer to another Lifeline program at any time; just inform the customer service representative that you will be transferring your lifeline service.

ASSURANCE WIRELESS

Assurance Wireless, a new Lifeline program in Minnesota, is distributed under the brand Virgin Mobile. Their Lifeline plan is different than the other Lifeline programs in that they provide both 250 minutes and 250 free text messages each month. For \$5 you can add 250 additional minutes and 250 text messages. You can buy these top up cards at Target, Best Buy, Walmart and many convenience stores. If you currently have a Virgin Mobile phone, you can keep your current Virgin Mobile phone number.

You can apply to Assurance Wireless by calling 1-800-378-7316 or online at www.assurancewireless.com

LIFE WIRELESS

Life Wireless (also known as FreePhone Minnesota) was the first company to distribute Lifeline cell phones in Minnesota. You may recognize the green tents where they distribute their cell phones in warmer weather.

There are 2 separate Lifeline plans for Life Wireless. One plan offers 125 minutes each month that can rollover. The second plan offers 250 minutes that do not rollover. Text messaging is offered at a rate of 3 text messages per minute of talk time. You can add additional minutes at their website, through customer service or at a MoneyGram store if you don't have a credit card. They have a variety of options to add minutes from \$5 for 60 minutes on up.

You can apply for a phone online at www.lifewireless.com or call customer service at 1-888-543-3620. You can also pick up a phone in person through their distributor FreePhone Minnesota. The number to learn about locations where they are distributing phones is 612-293-8859 or www.FreePhoneMN.org/events.

TERRACOMM WIRELESS

TerraCom Wireless offers 250 minutes per month. The 250 minutes can be used for phone air time or individual text messages. Each text message counts as a minute. You can apply to TerraCom Wireless by calling customer service at 1-877-351-4747 or going online at www.terracomwireless.com. You can add minutes at 8 cents a minute for \$5.00 and 5 cents a minute for \$10 or more. You can get these minutes at their website, by calling customer service or at any location that sell their top-up cards.

ANNUAL RE-CERTIFICATION

One of the conditions of the Lifeline program is that you have to certify annually that you still meet the qualifications to receive the service. Because of changes in the Lifeline program, active Lifeline participants were required to get re-certified by December 31, 2012. If you secured a Lifeline cellular phone during the first part of 2012, you likely were sent a letter telling you that you needed to re-certify by December 31. If you didn't respond to the letter, your service will be canceled. You need to be re-certified before your phone will be activated. Many of you had a phone through LifeWireless in 2012 and you can re-apply at any of their community events. You can also sign up for new service with one of the other two companies – Assurance Wireless or TerraCom Wireless.

WHY YOU SHOULD GET BOTH A CELL PHONE AND A COMMUNITY VOICE MAIL NUMBER

Access to a cell phone is very important so you have ready access to make a call. When you have both a cell phone and an Open Access voice mail number, you are able to meet your communication needs throughout the month.

Many people who are low income now have access to a free cell phone. This is great, but there are a few drawbacks that sometimes make it difficult to have a consistent and reliable form of communication:

- 250 minutes may not be enough to get you through the month if you have a free phone or you may not have enough money to have minutes throughout the month if you have a pre-pay phone. With all of your incoming and outgoing calls, 250 minutes can run out very quickly. Additional minutes cost money. Your free voice mail number from Open Access always works and there is no limit on how many messages you receive. *Open Access voice mail is always free.*
- Cell phones get lost/stolen/broken (as do power cords) and may not be quick and easy to replace if this happens. Open Access voice mail is always on. It is a number you call to get your messages from any phone.
- You may not be eligible for a free (Lifeline) cell phone.

Your voice mail number from Open Access can be your business number to get messages about jobs, housing, from your doctor, your case manager. You can put it on legal paperwork, intake forms, utility bills, housing lists, and job applications. On your cell phone, you can have a special greeting for your friends, and on your voice mail number, you can have business- like greeting for potential landlords and bosses.

If you need a safe number that is private, you can do this with your voice mail number. No one else has access to it. Or, if you want to keep your cell phone private, you can use your voice mail number on forms and give it out to others.

If you don't always want to take a call on your cell phone or want to conserve your minutes, voice mail is a way to help with this. You can have your phone off for a while and still get messages on your voice mail number.

Your Open Access voice mail number can be your back-up or your business number. You can use it as a back up if:

- you lose your phone
- it gets stolen
- there is not a place to charge your battery
- your phone gets rained on or broken
- you run out of money to pay for minutes.

A cell phone PLUS Open Access voice mail is the best way to go

Why you need both a cell phone and an Open Access voice mail number



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