

## Low income?



You can get a free cell phone with some free minutes  
OR Save every month on your home phone line

This program is called Lifeline.

### You can only have one type of Lifeline phone in your household

- A Lifeline free cell phone with free minutes  
**OR**
- A home phone line that Lifeline helps pay for

Can you have other phones in your household? Yes, but only 1 can be a Lifeline phone.

Already have one kind of Lifeline phone but now you want the other kind? You must first cancel the phone service you already have. Then apply for the other kind.

### You can get Lifeline IF:

#### 1. You already get one of these:

- Families First (TANF) **or**
- SNAP/Food Stamps **or**
- SSI payments **or**
- TennCare Medicaid **or**
- Help with your heating or cooling bill (Low Income Home Energy Assistance) **or**
- Free school lunch for your kids **or**
- Section 8 housing

If you already get one of these, go on to "How to apply for a free cell phone." **OR** go to "OR save every month on your home phone bill."

#### 2. **DON'T** get any of the help listed above? You can still get Lifeline if your income is low.

How low must your income be? Look at the numbers on the next page. Find your family size on the left. Move across to the dollar amount next to it. If your gross



monthly income is this much or **LESS**, you can get Lifeline phone help. **Gross income** means how much you get before anything is taken out.

Family size	Family gross income
1 person	\$1,324 per month /\$15,888 a year
2 people	\$1,792 per month /\$21,504 a year
3 people	\$2,260 per month /\$27,120 a year
4 people	\$2,728 per month /\$32,736 a year

For each family member over 4, add \$468 a month or \$5,616 a year.

Do you meet these income rules? Or get a type of the help listed under number 1? Keep reading.

### How to apply for a free cell phone

You can get a free phone and free minutes from 1 of 3 phone companies in Tennessee. Check to see which you like best. Then apply for Lifeline at that company.



The companies are:

1. **Assurance Wireless** - To get the application, call them at **1-877-378-1761**. Or on the internet go to: **www.assurancewireless.com**
2. **DTC Communications** - To get the application, call them at 615-529-2955. Or go to **www.dtccom.net** on the internet.
1. **Safelink Wireless** - To get the application, call them at **1-800-723-3546** for free. Or on the internet go to: **www.safelinkwireless.com**

## Getting a free phone because of low income?

You **MUST** send proof of income with the application paper. Proof can be one of these:

- Safelink needs 4 months in a row of all your pay stubs. Assurance and Access need 3 months in a row of all your pay stubs. **or**
- Letter from your boss saying what you get paid **or**
- Copy of your income tax return for last year **or**
- Your Social Security check statement **or**
- Your VA check statement **or**
- Your Retirement/Pension check statement **or**
- Paper showing your child support or alimony **v**
- Your Unemployment/Worker's Comp check statement **or**
- Your W-2 form from work

## OR save every month on your HOME phone line IF:

### 1. You already get one of these:

- Families First (TANF) **or**
- SNAP/Food Stamps **or**
- SSI payments **or**
- TennCare Medicaid **or**
- Help with your heating **or** cooling bill (Low Income Home Energy Assistance) **or**
- Free school lunch for your kids **or**
- Section 8 housing



Don't get any of these? Go to number 2 below.

Do you get one of these? Call your **local phone company**. They will tell you how to apply. You may have to change the name on your home phone bill. It must be in the name of the person who gets the help listed above.

### 2. DON'T get any of the help listed above? You can still get Lifeline home phone bill help if your income is low.

How low must your income be? Look at the numbers below. Find your family size. Then move across the page to the dollar amount next to it. **Gross income** means how much you get before anything is taken

out. Is your gross income is this much or **LESS?** Then you can get Lifeline help to pay for your home phone bill.

#### Family size

- 1 person
- 2 people
- 3 people
- 4 people

#### Family gross income

- \$1,324 per month /\$15,888 a year
- \$1,792 per month /\$21,504 a year
- \$2,260 per month /\$27,120 a year
- \$2,728 per month /\$32,736 a year

For each family member over 4, add \$468 a month or \$5,616 a year.

You may have to change the name on your home phone bill. It must be in the name of the person who gets the help listed above.

**Do you meet these income rules but don't get any of the help listed above?** Then you can get Lifeline home phone bill help. To apply, call the Tennessee Regulatory Authority for free at **1-800-342-8359**. Or on the internet, go to <https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tra/attachments/lluapp.pdf>. Send the paper to the address on the top of the application. You **must** send proof of your income with it.



## Can't afford to have a home phone line put in?

Are you OK'd for Lifeline? Then they can pay **half the cost to install a home phone**, up to \$30. You can pay the rest in monthly payments.



**Can't pay a deposit?** You won't have to pay a deposit if you ask for "local service only." This means long distance calls **can't** be made from your phone.

**NOTE:** This information cannot take the place of advice from a lawyer. Each case is different and needs individual legal advice. 1/16



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On the internet at [www.las.org](http://www.las.org)