



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Office of the Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Beshear Proclaims Lifeline Awareness Week
Focus is on helping low-income Kentuckians afford telephone service

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 10, 2009) – Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear today proclaimed Sept. 14-20, 2009 as Kentucky Lifeline Awareness Week in order to focus attention on the availability of programs to assist low-income Kentuckians with the cost of telephone service.

“Telephone service is indeed a lifeline, especially for Kentuckians of limited means who may be ill or homebound,” Gov. Beshear said. “The Lifeline program makes monthly service affordable, while the related Link-Up program helps pay installation costs.”

About 257,000 Kentucky households participate in the Lifeline program.

“There are many more Kentuckians eligible for these programs,” Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman David Armstrong said. “The PSC encourages them to apply through their local telephone provider.”

The Lifeline program provides a reduction in the monthly basic phone service charge and also waives deposits and activation charges. Link-Up offers a one-time credit of up to \$30 for installation of telephone service.

“In these tough economic times, many Kentuckians are struggling to meet their monthly expenses,” Gov. Beshear said. “The Lifeline and Link-Up programs can help people obtain and maintain a vital service at a reduced cost.”

Kentucky Lifeline Awareness Week is part of a national effort to build awareness of and participation in Lifeline and Link-Up.

It is being coordinated by the National Association of Utility Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC), in cooperation with the Federal Communications Commission, and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, The Kentucky PSC is a member of NARUC.

“Many eligible Kentuckians probably don’t know these programs exist,” Chairman Armstrong said. “We hope to see an increase in participation.”

Eligibility for Lifeline and Link-Up is established through participation in other programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps or the National School Free Lunch Program. (See below for a complete list.)

Participants may not have an unpaid and overdue balance on their telephone bill or must have a current payment arrangement to pay any outstanding balance.

Lifeline and Link-Up are funded through a small charge on all telephone bills.

More information is available on the PSC Web site at:
<http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/consumer/lifeline.pdf>.

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 100 employees.

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LIFELINE/LINK-UP FACT SHEET

1. The Lifeline program was designed to preserve and promote telephone services to qualified low-income households. The program provides a monthly credit for local service.
2. The Link-Up program offers eligible individuals a reduction in the local telephone company's charges for starting telephone service. The program pays for half of the installation charge up to \$30.
3. Eligibility for the Lifeline program or the Link-Up program is determined by participation in one of the following:
 - Medicaid
 - Food Stamps
 - Federal Public Housing
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
 - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
 - National School Free Lunch Program

AND

- Payment of or valid payment arrangements for any outstanding balance for telephone services provided to anyone residing at the current address
4. Enrollment in Lifeline provides the following benefits:
 - Waiver of the federal subscriber line charge.
 - Reduction in monthly residence line charge.
 - Waiver of deposit for local service.
 - Waiver of charge to activate new service.
 - Free toll blocking service.
 5. Local telephone companies should be contacted for enrollment details. Proof of participation in a qualifying program is required.
 6. The Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved a small charge to be placed on all telephone customers' bills to help eligible low-income consumers maintain basic phone service.

Proclamation

by

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, In today's highly interconnected world, telephones provide a lifeline to emergency help and a vital link to government services, community resources, friends and family; and
- WHEREAS, Not everyone can afford the cost of a home telephone, and a number of our Commonwealth's households still do not have telephone service in their homes; and
- WHEREAS, The Kentucky Public Service Commission and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have joined in a collaborative effort to make telephone service more affordable for the nation's low-income consumers by providing a discount on the connection fee and monthly charges for local telephone service; and
- WHEREAS, The Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) and Link-Up America (Link-Up) programs offer tremendous benefits for eligible consumers in Kentucky and make basic telephone service more affordable; and
- WHEREAS, The Lifeline program provides a discount to eligible low-income customers on their monthly phone bill, and the Link-Up program provides a generous discount to consumers on the installation of telephone service in their homes; and
- WHEREAS, It is imperative to ensure that all Kentucky and U.S. citizens have access to affordable basic local telephone service; and
- WHEREAS, The FCC, the Kentucky Public Service Commission, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, other state and federal agencies, cities, counties, organizations, and telecommunications companies are committed to increasing awareness about the availability of the Link-Up and Lifeline programs and are encouraging eligible citizens to sign up for the programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim September 14-20, 2009, as

LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK

in Kentucky and commend this observance to all.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort this 9th day of September, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nine and in the 218th year of the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Beshear", written over a horizontal line.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trey Grayson", written over a horizontal line.

Trey Grayson
Secretary of State