



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Office of the Governor

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**Governor Beshear Proclaims Lifeline Awareness Week**

*Low-income Kentuckians can get help to pay for telephone service*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 13, 2010)** – Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear has proclaimed Sept. 13-19, 2010 as Lifeline Awareness Week in Kentucky in order to focus attention on the availability of programs to assist low-income Kentuckians with the cost of telephone service.

“If you are ill or homebound, or have an emergency, telephone service is indeed a lifeline that no household should be without,” Gov. Beshear said. “The Lifeline program makes monthly service affordable for Kentuckians of limited means, while the related Link-Up program helps pay for installation costs.”

More than 250,000 Kentucky households participate in the Lifeline program. That is a lower proportion of households than in many neighboring states, suggesting that there are many eligible Kentuckians who do not participate in the program, Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) Chairman David Armstrong said.

“The Lifeline and Link-Up programs are one of the best ways for eligible households to reduce their monthly costs for essential utility services,” Armstrong said. “The PSC encourages anyone who thinks they may be eligible to apply through their local telephone provider.”

The Lifeline program provides a reduction in the monthly basic phone service charge for either landline or wireless service 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. “Lifeline and Link-Up can make a real difference by helping 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>

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