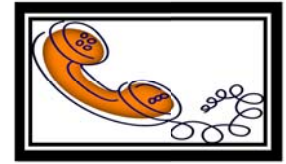




**NATIONAL TELEPHONE DISCOUNT
LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK
SEPTEMBER 9TH – 15TH**



During the nationally organized Lifeline Awareness Week – September 9th through September 15th the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and the New Hampshire Office of Consumer Advocate are promoting the Lifeline Telephone Assistance program. Lifeline is a federal program providing discounts to qualified low-income residents for basic local telephone service. This discounted phone service makes it easier for New Hampshire customers to have needed access to local emergency services and community resources.

You may be qualified if your household income is no more than 135% of the federal poverty income guidelines or if you participate in or qualify for one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing (Section 8)
- Food Stamps
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Free Lunch Program (NSL)

If you do not have the Lifeline discount and would like to apply, please contact your telephone provider and ask for an application. Some wireless companies participate in the Lifeline program, so customers should check with their wireless provider. Qualified customers are eligible for only one Lifeline Program discount in a household from a landline or wireless carrier participating in the Lifeline Program. The discount is not transferable.

Customers can also save money by voluntarily foregoing pre-subscribed long distance telephone service by requesting toll-blocking, a service that prevents toll calls from being made from their phone. Customers using this service can still use pre-paid calling cards or dial-around services to place long distance calls from their homes.

For more information:

<http://www.oca.nh.gov/Lifeline.htm>

Susan Chamberlin
Office of Consumer Advocate
603-271-1172

<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Consumer/lifeline.htm>

Amanda Noonan
Public Utilities Commission
603-271-2431

The Commission is the state agency charged with regulating rates and services of utilities operating in New Hampshire. To contact the Commission, call 1-800-852-3793, email us at puc@puc.nh.gov or check our website at www.puc.nh.gov

The OCA is an independent state agency representing the interests of residential utility ratepayers. To contact the OCA call 603-271-1172, email at oca@oca.nh.gov, or visit the website at www.oca.nh.gov.