

## What if I have been disconnected or have a past due bill? What about long distance service?

You can still qualify for telephone discounts. Contact your telephone company or contact the MN PUC at 800-657-3782 for assistance with a payment plan and enrolling on the telephone discount plan.

**Deposits:** If you have credit problems, you may have to pay a deposit before setting up phone service. If you are eligible for the Minnesota Telephone Discounts for landline service, you do not have to pay a deposit if you agree to block long distance service.

**Long Distance Blocking:** If you sign up for long distance blocking, you can still make long distance calls with pre-paid calling cards or dial-around services.

## Looking to Save Money?

Telephone Discounts are available!

A simple application is all it takes to help make phone or broadband service more affordable.

1. Check if you're eligible
2. Fill out the application
3. Add program or income proof
4. Send to your phone or broadband company

It's that easy!

# Telephone Discounts

**Telephone Discounts could save you over \$100 per year!**

**Apply today to start receiving your discounts.**

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## Minnesota Telephone Discounts

Discounts help to provide affordable telephone service to consumers. The discounts help you stay connected with jobs, family, and emergency services.

## Minnesota Telephone Discounts include two programs:

### Telephone Assistance Plan

A state discount for approved landline companies.

Discount is \$10.00 per month.

Residents of Minnesota tribal lands may qualify for additional discounts.

### Lifeline

A federal discount for approved landline, wireless, and broadband companies.

The Lifeline discount is up to \$9.25 per month.

Some wireless and broadband companies offer free phones, free minutes, or free data.

Telephone Service Providers will also waive the Access Recovery Charge (ARC) which may reduce your bill by an additional \$2.50.

## Am I eligible?

Telephone service must be in your name. You must show proof someone in your household participates in one of these qualifying programs.

-OR-

Show proof your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. Attach one item showing you are eligible.

Only one person per household can have the discount.

## How do I apply?

Get an application from your phone or broadband company or from the Public Utilities Commission

Send your application and program or income proof to your telephone or broadband company.

## What happens after I apply?

Discounts will show up on your bill about two months after your application is approved.

**You must re-certify each year or you will lose your discounts.** Contact your phone or broadband company if you see changes in your discount, or contact the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for help in keeping your discount, 800-657-3782.

## Qualifying Programs

- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Medical Assistance (MA) - Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

## Tribal Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally-administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (for those meeting the income-qualifying standard)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

-OR-

## Income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

If none of the above programs apply, provide one of the following documents:

- Last year state, federal or tribal tax return
- Social Security benefits statement
- Current annual income statement from employer
- Retirement/Pension benefits statement
- Pay stubs - 3 most recent months in a row
- Divorce decree
- Child support document
- Veterans Administration benefits statement
- Unemployment/Worker's Comp statement

Contact your telephone or broadband company for an application or get one at [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)

Send the application and program or income proof to your telephone or broadband company

It can take up to two months for discounts to show up on your bill. You must pay the whole bill until then. Discount will not cover past due bills.

One application may be used to apply for TAP and Lifeline

Watch each year for a notice telling you that you need to recertify