

Lifeline Income Eligibility Guidelines & Qualifying Programs

You may qualify for the Lifeline discount through **income eligibility** or through **participation in a qualifying government program**. You only need to meet one of these requirements.

Income Eligibility Guidelines (2026)

Your household qualifies if your gross annual income is at or below **135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)**, based on household size.

Household Size	48 Contiguous States, DC & Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
1 person	\$21,546	\$26,933	\$24,786
2 people	\$29,214	\$36,518	\$33,602
3 people	\$36,882	\$46,103	\$42,417
4 people	\$44,550	\$55,688	\$51,233
5 people	\$52,218	\$65,273	\$60,048
6 people	\$59,886	\$74,858	\$68,864
7 people	\$67,554	\$84,443	\$77,679
8 people	\$75,222	\$94,028	\$86,495
Each additional person, add	\$7,668	\$9,585	\$8,816

Note: The Federal Poverty Guidelines are updated annually by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The figures above reflect 2026 guidelines. A "household" is defined as anyone living at the same address who shares income and household expenses.

| Qualifying Government Programs

You may also qualify for Lifeline if you or someone in your household participates in one of the following programs:

Standard Qualifying Programs

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

Includes Nutrition Assistance Programs in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

- **Medicaid**
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
- **Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)**
- **Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit**

Additional Programs for Consumers on Tribal Lands

If you live on federally recognized Tribal lands, you may also qualify through:

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance**
- **Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**
- **Tribal Head Start**

Only available to households that already meet the income-qualifying standard.

- **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)**

| One Benefit Per Household

Only one Lifeline benefit is allowed per household. If more than one person at the same address wishes to receive Lifeline service, a Lifeline Household Worksheet must be completed.

| Survivor Eligibility

Under the Safe Connections Act, survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, or related crimes experiencing financial hardship may qualify for emergency Lifeline support for up to six months through a line separation request, receiving a discount of up to \$9.25 on phone, internet, or bundled service.

Source: Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), Lifeline Consumer Eligibility page. Guidelines are subject to change; for the most current information, visit usac.org/lifeline/consumer-eligibility or lifelinesupport.org.