



Public Service Commission of West Virginia

Contact: Susan Small, 304-340-0820, ssmall@psc.state.wv.us



For Immediate Release

September 15, 2015

PSC Helps Low-Income Families Stay Connected with Lifeline Program

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia wants citizens to stay connected, so it is reaching out to those who need phone service but can't afford it. During Lifeline Awareness Week, September 14-20, the Commission wants to ensure that low-income families and elderly residents know about this program, which offers discounts to help them access basic local telephone service.

Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to West Virginia's low-income residents. Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate in or are eligible for certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount. To participate in the program, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or participate in federal or state assistance programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). More information on program eligibility and rules is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/lifeline>.

Staying connected to local resources and emergency services can improve and possibly save many lives. Thirty telephone companies in West Virginia currently participate in the Lifeline Program. For more information, or to find out if you qualify, please call your local telephone company or visit the Commission's website: www.psc.state.wv.us/LifeLine.

###