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8 Special Services and Programs

8.1 Lifeline Telephone Service

Lifeline Telephone Service is a federal program which provides support to Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC) that in turn offer discounts to eligible consumers. These companies are then reimbursed through the Lifeline Program. Consumers can apply for these discounts through their telecommunications carrier. The discount applies to one telephone line per eligible household.¹

8.1.1 Lifeline Telephone Service Options

a. The federal Lifeline Program benefits eligible low-income subscribers by reducing their voice telephony service by \$9.25 per month.

b. Basic Lifeline Service

This service provides a flat rate discount of \$9.25, consisting of a \$6.50 reduction of the Federal Subscriber Line Charge and a \$2.75 reduction in the monthly rate for local exchange telephone service for residential customers. Qualified customers may choose any type or grade of local telephone service, including bundled services that are normally offered by the Company.

¹ Pursuant to FCC Code of Federal Regulations Title 47 Section 54.407 (Lifeline), all ETCs are permitted to receive support for offering Lifeline services to qualifying low-income customers.

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