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## SECTION 3 - INDIVIDUAL, PARTY AND PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE SERVICE

## K. Lifeline Telephone Service

1. Lifeline Service provides for a Federal credit amount of \$9.25, pursuant to the FCC Order 12-11 released on February 6, 2012. Funding for Lifeline Service is obtained from a universal service support mechanism to which all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis. These credits are applied to the local service portion of the monthly telephone bill for qualified residential customers. Lifeline Service is limited to only one Service per qualified customer or household; within this section, 'household' is defined as "any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit," with an 'economic unit' defined as, "all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household."

In order to qualify for the Lifeline Service, a customer must provide certification or authorize agency verification of their participation in at least one of the following programs: Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food Stamps, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL).

Additionally, an applicant whose income, as defined in 47 CFR Section 54.400(f), is at or below one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, may also apply for eligibility certification.

2. The following credits will apply for customers deemed eligible for Lifeline assistance:

Federal Credit	Monthly <u>Credit</u> \$9.25
State Credit to Residential Access Line	
Rate Groups 1-5	\$2.00
Rate Groups 6	\$1.46
Rate Groups 7	\$1.35
Rate Groups 8	\$1.00

The monthly discounted residential rate for qualified low-income customers may not be reduced below zero.

- 3. All applications for this service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.
- 4. The subscriber is responsible for notifying the company when eligibility is lost.
- 5. The Company will reconcile and confirm eligibility periodically, pursuant to the FCC Order 12-11 released on February 6, 2012. A verification of eligible recipients will be made. The credit will be discontinued on the bill following written notification to the customer of ineligibility.