

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

**CPUC, WE CONNECT, AND TURN PARTNER TO SUPPORT
CALIFORNIA LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK**

SAN FRANCISCO, September 13, 2010 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has joined forces with First Lady Maria Shriver's WE Connect Initiative and The Utility Reform Network (TURN), to celebrate California LifeLine Awareness Week, September 13-19, 2010.

California LifeLine Awareness Week is a national campaign to encourage qualified consumers to take advantage of the California LifeLine discounts for their basic home phone service. Consumers can get basic home phone service for less than 25 cents a day. Consumers enrolled in the program pay a fraction of the regular cost of home telephone service from their phone company.

"The California LifeLine program helps so many Californians across the state access critical phone service throughout the year," says California's First Lady Maria Shriver. "Through my WE Connect Initiative, we work to connect low-income families with resources such as LifeLine, among many others services that offer discounts, savings and more, so that more families can become financially secure."

Said CPUC Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich, "So many of us take for granted the ability to pick up a phone and have a link to the rest of the world. LifeLine Awareness Week gives the CPUC the opportunity to work with other organizations such as WE

Connect and TURN to reach out and assist those who are unable to afford that lifeline to the rest of the world.”

“As the economy continues to worsen, the California Lifeline Telephone Program is even more important than ever for low-income and elderly residents,” says Ana Montes, Organizing Director of The Utility Reform Network. “For some people California LifeLine is quite literally a matter of life and death as we continue to have many consumers who can barely afford a landline.”

During California LifeLine Awareness Week, there will be many community events throughout the state to promote the advantages of California LifeLine. Consumers attending these events can learn about the program, how to qualify, and its benefits. A list of all events is at www.cpuc.ca.gov/LifeLineWeek.

In these tough economic times, it pays to take advantage of California LifeLine and get basic home phone service for less than 25 cents a day. Having a landline at home not only allows for easy access to friends and family, but it is also important for receiving emergency information calls from local officials.

There are two ways consumers can qualify for California LifeLine:

1) If at least one member of a household is enrolled in any of the following public assistance programs:

- Medicaid/Medi-Cal
- Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)
- Healthy Families Category A
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Food Stamps or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- National School Lunch’s FREE Lunch Program (NSL)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) also called:
 - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
 - Stanislaus County Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (StanWORKs)

- Welfare-to-Work (WTW)
- Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN)
- Tribal TANF
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Head Start Income Eligible (Tribal Only)

2) If the total gross household income is at or less than these income limits:

Household Size	Annual Income Limit
1-2 members	\$24,000
3 members	\$28,200
4 members	\$34,000
Each additional member	Add \$5,800 to \$34,000
Effective 06/01/10 to 05/31/10	

California LifeLine Awareness Week is a unique state-federal partnership between the Federal Communications Commission, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, and various state utility commissions.

Consumers can learn more about California LifeLine by calling their local phone company or the California LifeLine Call Center at 866-272-0357 or by visiting www.CaliforniaLifeLine.com or www.cpuc.ca.gov/LifeLineWeek.

For more information on communications issues, please visit www.CalPhoneInfo.com.

For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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