



California Public Utilities Commission

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUC'S LIFELINE TELEPHONE PROGRAM OPEN TO MORE CONSUMERS BEGINNING JUNE 1

SAN FRANCISCO, June 1, 2007 – The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) today announced that as a result of new income guidelines, more consumers are eligible for its California LifeLine telephone program, which offers a 50 percent savings on local home phone bills.

California LifeLine, formerly known as the Universal Lifeline Telephone Service or ULTS program, provides discounted basic local telephone service of \$6 or less to qualifying low-income consumers.

Each year, the PUC adjusts the maximum qualifying income levels for LifeLine to reflect annual changes in federal poverty guidelines. Since 2000, annual increases to the qualifying income levels have risen 17 percent, qualifying many more households in California for LifeLine telephone program.

The new income guidelines for LifeLine are:

Household Size	Annual Income Limitation
1 – 2	\$22,000
3	\$25,900
4	\$31,200
For each additional member, add:	\$5,300

These income limits are effective from June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008.

Consumers can also qualify for enrollment in the LifeLine telephone program if they or another person in their household are enrolled in any one of the following public-assistance programs:

Medicaid/Medi-Cal	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
Food Stamps	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Healthy Families Category A	National School Lunch's FREE Lunch Program (NSL)
Tribal TANF	Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
Women, Infant and Children Program (WIC)	Head Start Income Eligible (Tribal Only)

A household may qualify for LifeLine even if they have been previously disconnected.

“We are excited to extend our service to even more Californians than before and want to ensure that all eligible households take advantage of monthly savings on their local home phone bills,” said Jack Leutza, Director of the Communications Division for the PUC. “Staying connected to family, jobs, and emergency services is critical and LifeLine makes it possible without making it a financial burden.”

LifeLine provides calling to local numbers only, including emergency and toll-free numbers, and does not include long-distance or such optional features as voice mail, call waiting, or call-forwarding. LifeLine is funded through a ratepayer surcharge and is provided by telephone carriers throughout the state.

The LifeLine program currently serves about 3.5 million California residents.

To enroll in LifeLine, consumers should call the LifeLine toll-free customer assistance number at 1-866-272-0349.

Consumers who are enrolled in the LifeLine program must verify annually that they are eligible to remain on the program.

For more information on the PUC or California LifeLine telephone program, please visit: www.cpuc.ca.gov or www.CalPhoneInfo.com.

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