



California Public Utilities Commission Proceeding Public Comments

FILED

03/08/24

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R2002008

Proceeding Number: R2002008
Filed Date: 27-FEB-20
Status: Active
Filer Name List: CPUC
Description: Order Instituting Rulemaking to Update the California Universal Telephone Service (California LifeLine) Program.
Assignment List: ALJ: Robyn Purchia (Assigned Dec 5, 2023)
ALJ: Stephanie Wang (Assigned Mar 4, 2020)
COMMISSIONER: Alice Reynolds (Assigned Mar 1, 2024)

Total Comments: 182

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| G S | Placentia, CA 92870 |
| this program has helped me find jobs as well as currently apply to college and without it I don't know what i'd do I wouldn't have any cellular services | |
| Mar 08, 2024 8:52 am | |
| Leilani Heard | Los Angeles, CA 90044 |
| Ifoster helps me a lot with giving me a phone I'm 20 with 2 kids so it's a big help having not to worry about phone bills | |
| Mar 08, 2024 8:51 am | |
| Alex Hernandez | Perris, CA 92571 |
| Hernandez, Alex; I am a former foster youth and I am currently a part of this program. This phone is the only reason how I have service and wifi to complete my school work. I use it to do pretty much everything from using it as a bus pass to getting text from friends. | |
| Mar 08, 2024 8:49 am | |
| John Meza | Anaheim, CA 92804 |
| It help me get a job and get to places to place with Google maps and it help me a lot with everything. | |
| Mar 08, 2024 8:45 am | |



Johana Vargas

Los angeles, CA 90002

I can say that this program of the CPUC Phones for foster youth has helped me a lot. As aging out of the foster system can be very stressful, full with a lot of chaos of growing up and being independent. I'm 23 years old and I have faced homelessness recently and prior to that I had my own studio and my own phone line but now I have lost them. But thanks to Ifoster I was able to get a phone that has a free line and now I have a stable line to use when I'm applying to jobs and for me to have the communication I need with the counselor and teachers of my school. So as a former foster youth I'm begging to please not take this program that can help other youth who are or have been in the same shoes as me.

Mar 08, 2024 8:44 am

Cheryl Jones

Victorville, CA 92394

"This program has really helped my foster youth. She feels secure and uses her phone for homework assignments and communication with her teachers and school administration. Please continue this service.
Foster Supportive Adult"

Mar 08, 2024 8:42 am

Lawrence Kocian

San Diego, CA 92101

I am a former foster youth who has autism. The phone that was provided has helped me drastically while I was attending college and San Diego City College, especially since having a phone for connecting to resources and programs that I needed while I have been homeless, i am blessed to have the resources that I do. I earnestly request and plead that the program be extended until the age of 26. I turn 24 this year in December. I am going to be starting a custody battle with my sons mom and I will need a phone to communicate during that process. Please take into consideration all the good that this program offers and has done to support the foster youth of current and past, let it help the future too! Us in the foster system have had to endure a great deal of trauma just to survive past 18 let alone each day. The trauma and effects that foster homes and group homes have on kids, is honestly downplayed and dismissed.

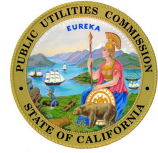
Mar 08, 2024 8:41 am

Charnay Greene

Inglewood, CA 90302

iFoster phones have been incredibly helpful to me, providing essential connectivity and access to resources that I wouldn't otherwise have had. They've improved my ability to stay connected, access information, and communicate effectively, making my daily life much easier and more efficient.

Mar 07, 2024 11:35 pm



Yulissa Puente

Bell, CA 90201

These phones have been very useful. I appreciate this program and it would be sadness if we lose it.

Mar 07, 2024 11:29 pm

Poetuh Valenzuela

Long Beach, CA 90805

Having a phone aids me in being able to navigate adulthood. Being able to know I have a phone and cell service really eases the stress of transition to an independent life. It's hard enough not being able to rely on family to support the transition so it's nice knowing there are programs like this that will provide that for us so we can continue to succeed in life. It gives a sense of comfort to know that, former or current, foster youth are not forgotten.

Side Note: Thank you ifoster, all the help you provide is always helpful and needed.

Mar 07, 2024 4:58 pm

Marina Montes

Escondido, CA 92025

This program is extremely important to many of the foster youth I work with. The phone service has helped many of my youth stay connected to their family, friends, and other permanent connections. My non minor dependents have benefited from having a phone that otherwise they would not be able to afford by having a means to contact service providers, employers, and be successful in life.

Mar 07, 2024 4:57 pm

Serenity De La Cruz

Fresno, CA 93706

This program is super important because it gives kids phones, laptops, tablets and a lot of kids now days need these things.

Mar 07, 2024 4:56 pm

Eva Rhiannon

oakland, CA 94602

I received my iFoster phone when i was 17 and am now 18 since having this phone I have been able to remain in contact with my siblings I have been separated from and used my phone number to obtain employment, housing, and other adult responsibilities. I cannot loose my iFoster phone this program has assisted me SO MUCH! If my service gets shut off and this program no longer will be in service I won't have access to all things listed above and more. I am currently not in the position to obtain my own phone line especially with such short notice pls don't leave me high and dry

Mar 07, 2024 4:18 pm



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|--|------------------------------|
| Marie Fine | Redlands, CA 92373 |
| <p>This phone is a necessity in the world today! It is needed for emotional support and connection with others. It is imperative in one's education in public and private trade schools, in junior and four year college classes, for research, internet and zoom classes, registration, etc. It is necessary for the ability to access emergency services when out and about. This little device actually gives its owner a sense of safety-security-and connection with the world around them. Please continue this program; it is vital to their overall well being. Thank you for this important consideration."</p> | |
| Mar 07, 2024 4:15 pm | |
| Danielle Lopez | North Hills, CA 91343 |
| <p>I'm currently using an iFoster phone and it's helped me communicate better with my peers and superiors.</p> | |
| Mar 07, 2024 11:54 am | |
| Jade Kaabua | Kingsburg, CA 93631 |
| <p>I came to my foster home with not much and didn't have a phone. Being able to have a phone helped me stay in touch with family (who lived in a different city from our new foster home), communicate with my foster parent and siblings when we needed, and stay in touch with friends which I think is important for foster children/teens.</p> | |
| Mar 07, 2024 11:53 am | |
| J M | Reedley, CA 93654 |
| <p>These phones saved my life!</p> | |
| Mar 07, 2024 11:52 am | |
| Stacey E | Los Angeles, CA 90031 |
| <p>I haven't had the T-Mobile phone for a long period and recently just received it. Even so, I've already been impacted greatly. I currently have no Wi-Fi. I'm able to do my job with the hotspot provided from the device. Since I'm able to work, I'm able to pay my bills and try to stay afloat. Thank you. Please give this benefit to other foster kids. Please let more kids have a chance to catch their breathe.</p> | |
| Mar 07, 2024 11:51 am | |
| Christian Gregorio | Los Angeles, CA 90011 |
| <p>This is important for the youth that I have been surrounded with, because it's an essential way they can help look for resources when I can only do so much myself.</p> | |
| Mar 07, 2024 11:50 am | |



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| <p>Amari Weatherby Los Angeles, CA 90042</p> <p>The ifoster phones help me save much money on bills while I'm struggling to make other ends meet.</p> <p>Mar 07, 2024 11:49 am</p> |
| <p>Darranique Briggs Palmdale, CA 93550</p> <p>The phone helped me by saving money out my pocket and saving on a phone bill every month. I like it because I have hotspot where if I don't have WiFi while traveling, I can connect my hotspot to my laptop.</p> <p>Mar 07, 2024 11:48 am</p> |
| <p>Pauline Sanchez Fontana, CA 92336</p> <p>Thank you for giving my foster kiddos this opportunity to be a part of this program. It has been a tremendous help to all of us! It has also been nice for the kids to have something of their own, and to have service that hasn't been interrupted, it brings a sense of security. What a blessing!</p> <p>Mar 07, 2024 11:47 am</p> |
| <p>Afrika Nkosi Honolulu, HI 96817</p> <p>As a past recipient of a phone from the iFoster program, I can personally attest to the importance of the phones that this program provides to foster youth. There have been times when my foster family wouldn't allow me to speak to my biological family about important matters and the foster phone would be the only thing connecting me to them. I urge you to continue with the program as it provides foster youth a connecting link to the outside world that they may be restricted from.</p> <p>Mar 07, 2024 11:47 am</p> |
| <p>Hannah W Lancaster, CA 93534</p> <p>Helps me to keep in contact with my friends and bio family.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 5:18 pm</p> |
| <p>Haylie Schroeffer Big Bear City, CA 92314</p> <p>This program has not only helped me keep my full-time house cleaning job but had led me to be successful in so many ways I can't even thank them for. If this program was put to an end, I wouldn't be able to keep myself afloat. My grandmother recently passed away and the way I pay my bills in her house that I was forced to take over is with my phone. I am so thankful for iFoster phone program I really wouldn't know what to do without.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 5:17 pm</p> |



Kaylee B

Riverside, CA 92571

The iFoster phone is an essential part of my education and career. It allows me to review my university portal to view assignments, readings, and access grades. I am also able to communicate with my classmates when we are assigned group projects. I am currently applying to jobs, and I've had to do phone interviews. None of this would be possible without this free service because I cannot afford a phone and monthly service on my own. Please consider the vital function these phones serve in our personal, educational, and professional development.

Mar 06, 2024 5:16 pm

Steve Barger

American Canyon, CA 94503

Hello, I have been a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Volunteer for a 13-year-old boy in foster care for the past two years. During his time in the foster program, he has had been at 6 different placements and 5 different social workers, as a CASA I stay with him during his journey. Even though he has a right to call me using the foster parents phone it is not the same as immediate access via text, voice or even facetime. Now that he is placed over an hour drive from my home it has been a blessing for both of us to have this "lifeline". Since having this phone for the last 7 months he has not had to leave his current foster home because of our immediate communication to help him handle what he is going through, big or small. I know the cost must be high for this program, but so is letting a child who is in the system and feels alone fail.

Mar 06, 2024 5:15 pm

Scarlett E

Camarillo, CA 93010

I really need my phone it helps keep me safe not only by being able to call 911 but also calling the crisis line because I have mental health issues.
I also need it for schoolwork my high school gives some assignments that need to be completed with my phone.

Mar 06, 2024 5:14 pm

Lilyana Brooks

Palmdale, CA 93551

My school is 30 minutes from home, and I use rideshare to get there. This phone gives me security and helps me contact my family.

Mar 06, 2024 5:13 pm



Kari D

Palmdale, CA 93551

I am the caregiver of a Foster Youth. The phone provided has allowed us to contact her when needed and even during a recent emergency. Without this phone we will feel a loss of security. Her school is a 30-35 minute drive, one-way. The Department provides a rideshare for her. In order to track her location and have a sense of comfort while she is with strangers, her cell phone is a necessity.

Mar 06, 2024 5:11 pm

Oscar Ornela

Los Angeles, CA 90031

Please don't cancel this program. This program has helped my nephew & myself in many ways.

1. I can't afford to pay for a cell phone for him & this program allows him to have one.
2. This program possibly saved my nephew's life. One day on his way home from school, a few students jumped him. They didn't hurt him too bad, thanks to this program he was able to get away & call 911 & myself. The police got to him quick. The kids who assaulted him got away but at least they stopped beating him. This program allowed him & us from causing real damage to him. We made a police report & it turns out that the kids who did this to him also attended the same school & they were expelled. If it wasn't for this program, it would have been a totally different outcome. My family & I are truly grateful that there are people/companies that are willing to help out our youths in need. Please don't discontinue this program. I'm sure there are a lot more families in need of this program. We are truly blessed to have a program & people like this. You have not heard this a lot. Thank you for all you do.

Mar 06, 2024 5:11 pm

Luna Rodriguez

Fresno, CA 95926

The iFoster phone has helped me by giving me access to friends, family, and peers. Without it I wouldn't be able to do my schoolwork online.

Mar 06, 2024 5:08 pm

Donny Carlson

Reedley, CA 93654

We need to keep this program up and running for our foster youth.

Mar 06, 2024 5:07 pm

Yaseen King

Los Angeles, CA 90035

iFoster phones help youth and young adults in the system who don't have support or funds to get a phone on their own.

Mar 06, 2024 5:06 pm



Hasmig Tatioossian

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

As a CPS Social Worker, the iFoster phone program has been immensely helpful for several of my clients. Having a phone has allowed them to stay in contact with their natural support network and service providers. It has given them access to the internet, which is vital in today's world. The phone has sometimes been the only way they have been able to reach me (a youth who is AWOL, for example, has stayed in touch with me, which has allowed me to know that despite their whereabouts being unknown, they are ok). They have also used the phone for virtual therapy sessions. This is an invaluable resource for our youth, including for their mental health and wellbeing.

Mar 06, 2024 5:06 pm

Michael Hartson

Redding, CA 96002

When I was a foster youth, I got presented with an ifoster phone. The iFoster phone had free service on it and enough gigabytes for me to complete tasks and being able to get in touch with My Loved ones and my social workers. The ifoster phone was like a life saver for me because I didn't have a working phone with service so having this phone provided me extra stability, while attending to a busy life ahead of me.

Thank you and God Bless!

Mar 06, 2024 5:04 pm



Onna Bejarano Perkins

San Jose, CA 95126

I am in extended foster care currently. I received an ifoster phone in my junior year of high school.

It has helped me stay in communication with my social worker as well as my support team and mental health providers like my therapist and my case manager through mental health services.

And my case manager at the hub where I was able to get directly in communication with the people that I needed to in order receive more services that I desperately needed at that time.

I was in high school and was not working so I wasn't in a financial situation, where I could provide a phone for myself.

Not only has it help me stay in contact with my team but it helps me with getting a job to where I was eventually able to save and pay for my own phone and phone bill.

I used to be so worried about applying for jobs because I didn't know what number to put down and I didn't feel comfortable putting the number down of a facility where I was currently living at during that time. A lot of foster you feel that way rather they choose to admit it or not.

I truly believe that the ifoster phone program has played a big role in where I am at today as current foster youth who will be 21 and exiting extended foster care in 24 days.

Mar 06, 2024 5:03 pm

Sofia Kelly

Sylmar, CA 91342

This program has helped me keep a good stable phone number and not have to worry about how will I call someone in an emergency. Also having this phone has helped employers contact me about potential jobs. Having a phone is general in today's society is very important. Everything works with numbers, like accounts. The dmv account needs a phone number to verify your identity, or when you do your taxes on an application, not having to be stressed over how will I pay an expensive phone bill that cost like 60\$-\$100 nowadays has been extremely helpful I can use that money instead to buy things I am currently in need of or feminine hygiene because that is always way too costly. staying in touch with your friends and possibly family is always very vital in a young adult's life especially in foster care. We need a support system and ways to stay in touch. Having that contact with your friends is also good for people who struggle with mental health issues. Without having a stable way to communicate with others that would make someone feel terrible. That is why this program is very important and necessary in foster youth development.

Mar 06, 2024 5:02 pm



Joseph Diaz

Pomona, CA 91767

Having a phone provided me with a lot of opportunities. it has allowed me to connect with resources that have helped me has helped me connect with family members and my siblings. with the help of being provided a phone it has made my situation a lot better. if this program is not available, a lot of kids are going to struggle that's our future we need to worry about.

Mar 06, 2024 5:00 pm

Christina Jacobs

Escondido, CA 92025

I am writing in support of the CPUC Lifeline program. I am the social worker for foster youth and non minor dependents (NMD) that are participating in Extended Foster Care. The youth and NMDs that I work with have very little income and are not able to pay for a phone or phone service. They utilize the ifoster phone/device program to assist them with staying connected to those that are important to them, to find employment or attend school, to sign up for services or make appointments such as for important medical needs. The program is a true life line for them and is very much needed.

Mar 06, 2024 5:00 pm

Sonya Salaita

Escondido, CA 92025

This program has been vital to the students I work with in foster care. For many, it is there only means of communicating with family. It is also a way for them to be able to access emergency services. It has been used by hundreds of kids within our program and losing it means losing access to family, friends, resources, and emergency services.

Mar 06, 2024 4:59 pm

Jessie Roybal

Reedley, CA 93654

When I first moved into foster care I didn't have a phone or electronics that other kids got from their parents. I couldn't keep in touch with my family member's since I didn't have a phone, but my social worker was able to provide me a phone because of this program. If you lower the age requirement, then a whole lot of kids are going to miss out on the benefits that were available to them. If when I lost mine or broke my phone, I could ask for a replacement but it would take some time, probably couple weeks max. Foster Kids who have access to a phone could reach their foster parents in case of an emergency or 911. Having a phone now is recommended since you pretty much use it for everything you do daily.

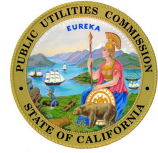
Mar 06, 2024 4:59 pm

Danielle Lopez

North Hills, CA 91343

This program is important because it provides youth tools to help continue their future.

Mar 06, 2024 4:15 pm



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| <p>Aniya Gibbs Antioch, CA 94509</p> <p>When in need to reach someone or for any emergency this phone has helped me contact and for people to reach me when I can't afford to pay for phone service every month this phone helps me stay connected.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 12:37 pm</p> |
| <p>Justin Simko San Andreas, CA 95249</p> <p>It has helped them access employment, vocational schools and college in addition the youth have used in them in the event of an emergency. The iFoster cell phone is very important for our youth.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 12:37 pm</p> |
| <p>Marlene D Whittier, CA 90601</p> <p>I received a phone at the age of 18 from my social worker and it helped out tremendously given I didn't have money to buy a phone nor a job to pay the phone bill.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 12:36 pm</p> |
| <p>Monica Medina La Mesa, CA 91941</p> <p>At the time I did not have a phone due to financial issues and I was also around 17-18yrs old. I did not have a phone; I was very grateful that ifoster provided me with a free phone and it has really helped me with applying for jobs and feeling safer rather than not having one. I am still currently facing financial issues and would still like to continue the free service and Internet as it has helped me tremendously.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 12:35 pm</p> |
| <p>Ruben Velasco Riverside, CA 93507</p> <p>First thing first is I want to thank everyone that made an effort to support foster or former fosters provided support and resources like CPUC, truly makes a difference in our financial lives to have less to stress about bills.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 12:34 pm</p> |
| <p>Sakara Anderson La Verne, CA 91750</p> <p>The foster phone and laptop helped me as an IT student in college. When I couldn't afford to pay my phone bill, the ifoster phone helped. And the laptop saved me when my main laptop broke. Foster technology saved me multiple times in college. Additionally, I have siblings who also use the foster phone. With the phone, I can stay in contact my siblings, which is a big deal for me.</p> <p>Mar 06, 2024 12:33 pm</p> |



Jose Gonzalez Valles

Bakersfield, CA 93301

I am sure this program will help me in the near future with getting in contact with school and support etc., also for finding necessary resources for building the future that I want and deserve.

Mar 06, 2024 12:32 pm

Mason B

Santa Maria, CA 93455

This phone lets me keep in touch with my brother and I use the hotspot to do homework.

Mar 06, 2024 12:29 pm

Aleah Martinez

Sacramento, CA 95834

This program is very important to me because it gives me security knowing I will have a working phone that has service until I'm 25 we as foster kids go through a lot even as adults sometimes we can't afford to have a phone bill so relying on this program is crucial for when we apply for jobs have appointments etc. I believe every foster or former foster kid benefits from this program, and we need this program to stay open.

Mar 06, 2024 12:29 pm

Mark McCuen

Loleta, CA 95551

As a foster parent we were able to apply for and receive a working phone with internet access for our foster teen. Without this device we would have needed to find an affordable device and plan to use out of our own pocket. Communication is critical with foster youth in transitioning living circumstances. It is a question of safety and being able to set some limits for internet and social media use.

Mar 06, 2024 12:26 pm

Joumana Nassar

Merced, CA 95348

Having this phone helped me with having somewhere for future bosses to reach out to me.

Mar 06, 2024 12:26 pm

Kaniyah Campbell

Fontana, CA 92336

The phones are extremely helpful in emergencies. I've had several instances where it was needed.

Mar 06, 2024 12:25 pm



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| Mallory Morales | Menifee, CA 92584 |
| <p>This phone program has helped me with having a good phone I can rely on as I'm trying to get a job it helps me stay in contact with family and friends without me having to worry about payments or minutes.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:24 pm | |
| Tyler Sanchez | Soquel, CA 95073 |
| <p>This has allowed me to communicate with family and keep in touch with other.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:23 pm | |
| Brenda Brito | San Diego, CA 92115 |
| <p>Hi, I'm Brenda, a current foster youth. This program has been very beneficial to me as they were the ones to provide me with a phone with cellular data. If it was not for them, it would be hard for me to continue to have data on my phone. It has been very helpful in various ways. One being that I can now communicate with family members while being out and about my day. Also, having the phone made it easier to answer phone calls when I have applied for jobs. Having a phone with data is necessary when applying to jobs so you can respond to the phone calls. Without this program it would have been difficult for me to do this since I would struggle to pay my phone bill. I do genuinely think this is a great program, especially very helpful for foster youth as many of us struggle to have a phone as much as paying for it as well.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:22 pm | |
| Joseph Lynch | Soquel, CA 95073 |
| <p>This program has been amazing for my foster kids. It removes a major barrier for us.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:21 pm | |
| Paris Sims | Fontana, CA 92336 |
| <p>There were situations where I needed a phone to call home because I needed to be pick up later or earlier from places because my asthma was acting up. It's greatly needed.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:20 pm | |
| Troy Sanchez | Soquel, CA 95073 |
| <p>This is my life line.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:19 pm | |
| Malachi Morgan | Santa Rosa, CA 95404 |
| <p>They have helped me get devices.</p> | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:18 pm | |



Alicia King

Sacramento, CA 95826

This iFoster phone program has helped me graduate trade school by utilizing the phone's unlimited hotspot for internet access. Also, the phone and its unlimited data has helped me stay employed by reaching out to employers, coworkers, and other people. It's helped me with my job as a Medical Paratransit as we have to provide our own phones and have unlimited data to stay in contact with dispatch, patients, supervisors, and others. Without this phone, along with its unlimited data and unlimited hotspot, I'd be out of a job due to lack of internet access. In order to work efficiently I must have a reliable phone.

Mar 06, 2024 12:17 pm

Ronald Cockrell

Sacramento, CA 95842

This phone helps me so much with getting in contact with jobs and family when I need it thank you so much, I'm very grateful for your help.

Mar 06, 2024 12:16 pm

Salem Ziemer

Altadena, CA 91001

Hello, my name is Melinda Ziemer. I am a former foster youth who is currently attending a community college. I would like to make it clear that I am more than eternally grateful to ifoster for helping me ease the financial burden of having to pay for a phone. I do not make enough to have a phone on top of having to pay for necessities. If this program were to disappear, I would no longer have any connections to reach out to friends, family, and therapist.

Mar 06, 2024 12:15 pm

Lily Moreno

Lancaster, CA 93536

Greetings, these foster phones have helped tremendously with all of my fostered teens over the years. It gives them a sense of independence which intern brings added happiness to their life. It also helped tremendously was not an additional expense!

Mar 06, 2024 12:14 pm

Margaret Minier

Phelan, CA 92329

The phone is a lifeline for my foster son. He is able to connect with friends and while on visitations let me know when things happen, including pictures, which have helped me help him stay safe from abuse. Please do not suspend this valuable program.

Mar 06, 2024 12:13 pm



Roberto Hernandez

San Jose, CA 95116

This programmed had helped me save and keep in contact with family for emergency reasons and etc. but I'm grateful for the service and would still be grateful if it keeps going to able save money.

Mar 06, 2024 12:12 pm

Lauren Grundy

Long Beach, CA 90806

I have been able to keep a stable number which has helped a lot with employment.

Mar 06, 2024 12:12 pm

Darling Guzman

Lancaster, CA 93534

This phone has helped up have access to communication and help so much to stay in contact with family/friends.

Mar 06, 2024 12:11 pm

Akira Green

Lancaster, CA 93534

This phone had helped me so much I've been struggling paying for a new phone and service and ifoster has always helped me with the 5g network and the amazing phone they always gave me I will continue on using this device as much as possible this program is so important to me because without it I wouldn't have been able to find a job because I couldn't afford service or a phone thank you ifoster so much.

Mar 06, 2024 12:06 pm

Ana Mendoza-Flores

Los Angeles, CA 90044

As a future university freshman of 2024, CPUC Phones has been very helpful in fighting against barriers that I once had. Now I approach college with less worries and am grateful. It would not be without the CPUC LifeLine Foster Youth Pilot Program that I can now have the privilege to concentrate more on my studies without having to worry about paying for a device every month. This is how CPUC has helped me, as a person who has no finances or anyone to support them with such things.

Mar 06, 2024 12:06 pm

Reanna Ward

Riverside, CA 92501

I have been able to keep in contact with my family and loved ones as well as maintain a job and get my appointments confirmed due to the free phone I've been using.

Mar 06, 2024 12:05 pm



| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Jenny Panighetti | San Jose, CA 95136 |
| Our phones connect us to each other and the world. Of all groups of disenfranchised people, foster youth NEED THIS. | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:04 pm | |
| Karla Luna | Anaheim, CA 92806 |
| CPUC has helped my youth and myself a lot because it is very important to communicate specially while the child is under the foster care system. There is already mini expenses that we already have to encounter with the children and the help from CPUC providing a cell phone to the youth is a lot of help. There's a lot of children in danger and a lot of us that aren't unable to provide the with an extra expense for a cell phone to communicate while they are under our care. Please don't remove this cell phone service from the youth as it is very important in their daily lives not only to communicate emergencies but also with school. | |
| Mar 06, 2024 12:04 pm | |
| Rogelio Ramirez | Madera, CA 93637 |
| I love my phone! | |
| Mar 06, 2024 10:59 am | |
| Dejhonnae Garnett | Morenovalley, CA 92555 |
| I've been homeless and this phone helps me to contact jobs and keep communication with my family I would be lost without this free service. | |
| Mar 06, 2024 10:58 am | |
| Alfredo Reynoso | San Jose, CA 95112 |
| I am an 18-year-old who was born and raised into foster care. iFoster is my only way of having a phone. | |
| Mar 06, 2024 10:57 am | |
| Emily Brower | Hemet, CA 92545 |
| Great and helpful program! | |
| Mar 06, 2024 10:57 am | |
| Celestina Ramirez | Victorville, CA 92392 |
| This phone has helped me keep in contact with my family while away from them. | |
| Mar 06, 2024 10:56 am | |



Kiana H

Laguna Hills, CA 92653

As a former foster youth I never was fully able to stay in contact with all my counselors and remain on time for school meetings. With ifoster it changed my life and I pray can continue changing the lives of other foster youth. I've been able to remain on time and on schedule for classes as well as remaining in contact with teachers, social workers, and class schedules. Being placed in foster care it's nice to know people care about us and want to see us do better the same way we want for ourselves. I hope you can reconsider keeping this program going. Thank you!

Mar 06, 2024 10:55 am

Shellsea Reynoso

Pasadena, CA 91101

As a former foster youth and legal guardian to my sister I can attest as a both a recipient and supportive adult of a recipient of this program. I do not think many people understand how crucial it is for former and current foster youth to have a program that allows them to have access to a FREE cell phone with unlimited text, talk, and hotspot in this ever-changing world of technology. We rely on outside sources from the internet or a phone call from an ILP coordinator or other resource hubs to survive because we do not have a community of supportive people or family to assist on our road to independence. All of our outreach for resources is made possible with access to technology which nowadays is a complete necessity for everyone to be able to communicate and access resources. I was able to complete my Bachelors degree in psychology because I had a hotspot that allowed me to take my courses and complete my school work online. My sister also benefited immensely from this program as she was able to stay connected to her close friends and stay updated with school emails and events. Her hotspot also allowed her to do her homework from anywhere which she appreciated in case she needed a change in environment to stay focused. We would be extremely disappointed to see this program go or even be changed because how it is currently is exactly what we needed and exactly what we and our community deserve. It is difficult enough to navigate this life without the support of loved ones, please let us at lease count on your support.

Mar 05, 2024 11:16 pm

Ivette Ramirez

Irvine, CA 92612

The phone has been a tremendous help to not only me but also my peers who've gained access to a cell phone through the iFoster Phone Program. I appreciate the convenience of being able to communicate with my support network and use the Internet during times of emergency. The hotspot on my phone has allowed me to finish my undergraduate career and work from home.

Mar 05, 2024 2:50 pm



Angelina Medina

Palmdale, CA 93551

The iFoster cell phone has been a tremendous help to me in many ways. It has allowed me to stay connected with my loved ones, provided me with unlimited data for my work on the computer, and helped me navigate the world more efficiently with its GPS. This program has been a blessing and has helped me overcome many barriers.

Mar 05, 2024 2:45 pm

Tyree Crawford

Pomona, CA 91767

The phone program has been a major benefit to my life as it has helped me not only maintain contact with my family but also helped me maintain employment and follow up for interviews. It also made it to where I no longer need to stress about one extra bill and has made it easier to live and pay other bills and maintain independence.

Mar 05, 2024 2:44 pm

Keira Green

Palmdale, CA 93551

The iFoster phone has helped me to communicate and be consistent with work and family.

Mar 05, 2024 2:42 pm

Selena Marker

Fresno, CA 93704

They help me stay connected with my siblings whether I'm at work or at school I never had to worry about never having funds to pay off my phone or worry when I'm walking home because I'll have internet to text people in case something happened. Having a free phone is very much a liability and I'm so grateful.

Mar 05, 2024 2:37 pm

Michele Davis

Los Angeles, CA 90044

It helped a lot actually, I was homeless so I didn't have nothing to reach out for help I had to ask people to use their phones in I just needed my own phone so I can seek for help myself so my social worker told me about Ifoster, giving me the run down about the program I signed up in received the phone in was able to talk to family in find more benefits to help me get help so I do thank ifoster in everybody for what they do for the foster youth in was so nice too help us with the type of help.

Mar 05, 2024 2:35 pm

Ash McQuade

National City, CA 91950

I rely heavily on the unlimited data for me to use when away from steady Internet.

Mar 05, 2024 2:35 pm



Alexis Andrade

Oroville, CA 95965

The phone has been helpful because I wouldn't have been able to afford a phone bill and it has saved me tons of money instead of having to buy a new phone and to pick a provider.

Mar 05, 2024 2:34 pm

Jewel Vaughn

Vandalia, CA 45377

Many youth are exposed to violence, neglect, and abuse. Providing them with a secure means of communication allows them to feel safe and connected with their support systems who may not be readily available in the home. By being connected with support groups and individuals on their care team, they can begin to live their lives without fear of repeated trauma or neglect. Every culture the youth experience has a support group attached that needs to be maintained to develop and cultivate one's identity. Being tech savvy in this world creates a competent asset to any organization they are employed with. These devices are needed for youth protection and youth preparation.

Mar 05, 2024 2:34 pm

Maria Soto

Castaic, CA 91358

I've had this phone for about 2 years and I say that it has helped me communicate well with my CSW and my lawyers very well. Is day that it's the one thing that has given me a voice to be able to express my needs and to be able to be heard. Getting around now without a phone can be very difficult due to the fact that there are no pay phones available and by having the phone that I foster gifted me has helped me tremendously.

Mar 05, 2024 2:33 pm

Alaisha Weaver-Fields

Winnetka, CA 91306

Having access to a free phone and free service helped so much with finding jobs, keeping up to date with important information whether it was from my social worker, jobs, resources and more. A lot of foster youth live in abusive households and these phones can help them have access to emergency numbers and people that can help them. Today a lot of things are run by technology even school, I think youth should have access to these phones they help a lot and for young that don't have income, yet it helps them not stress about a phone bill. Having a phone helps so much. How would someone else feel if their phone was taken away and they didn't have access to anything? Maps, Information, Communication, and more can be accessed through a phone.

Mar 05, 2024 2:32 pm

Demetria Carmicle

Palmdale, CA 93550

The phone program it is very important and helpful to me and the current and former foster youth.

Mar 05, 2024 2:32 pm



Alexander Whitfield

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

I would literally not be alive without this phone I was living in the mountain alone on Los Alamos Road 40 miles from the nearest town this was lifeline to food at time I only outline too late and other life this program is vital to foster youth.

Mar 05, 2024 2:31 pm

Alicia Ramos

Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Hi, I believe the program should continue. When I entered into foster care, I had no cell phone. I felt disconnected with everything. Family, friends, apps. When the hub helped me with getting a phone. My life was so much better and in fact complete. I was so happy something like that exists because it helped me so much and that is so beautiful. It did okay its role later on as well, getting replacements until I got a job and bought a phone. Please keep the program available for those who need it. Many foster people will need it!

Mar 05, 2024 2:30 pm

Damian Faulhaber

El Cajon, CA 92020

This program has helped me keep contact with family members and friends without having to pay for an expensive phone bill every month, allowing me to focus my money on college.

Mar 05, 2024 2:29 pm

Lily Pacheco

Oceanside, CA 92058

This has helped me with being about to get my education and help in my work environment.

Mar 05, 2024 2:28 pm

Gina Pulido

San Bernardino, CA 92415

Having ongoing communication with my youth.

Mar 05, 2024 2:28 pm

Laura Cady

Sacramento, CA 95823

I still utilize the ifoster phone service to this day. Having this free cell service has not only been useful to me but has saved me financially countless times and has even saved my life a number of times when I needed to make urgent calls to family/friends during times of crisis. Had I not had this service I probably would be much worse off in almost every regard.

Mar 05, 2024 2:27 pm



| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Z J | San Bernardino, CA 92407 |
| This program gives me the opportunity to feel included and be able to communicate better without the pressure of not affording or being able to have what any other kid has. | |
| Mar 05, 2024 2:26 pm | |
| Elizabeth Romero | Van Nuys, CA 91405 |
| Please this program is very helpful I was able to do work and school and schedule appointments for myself and my child. | |
| Mar 05, 2024 2:25 pm | |
| Yoselin Lopez | San Diego, CA 92139 |
| I have gotten a CPUC phone and it really helped me out when I didn't have WiFi in certain places, and I am thankful ifoster has helped me out and other people that don't have a phone to begin and this is really helpful for me and can help out others. | |
| Mar 05, 2024 2:24 pm | |
| Keith Parker | Stockton, CA 95205 |
| It has helped me stay in touch with the world and get a job while homeless. | |
| Mar 05, 2024 2:23 pm | |
| Kyren Patrick | San Jose, CA 95124 |
| There is nothing like the secure feeling of being able to call home when needed. The internet access is so important for our youth to reach their goals and ambitions. Please don't deny them the ability to have an affordable phone. If anything, you should be investing more funds into this program. | |
| Mar 05, 2024 2:23 pm | |
| Leila Ford | West Covina, CA 91791 |
| Having a phone from this program has saved my life. I have been in life threatening situations that could've gone a lot worse if I didn't have my phone I got from ifoster. It has helped me pay for more important things than phone service while I've had it. Like medical expenses, medication, food, etc. Gave me the tools to stay in touch with workers, mentors, and friends. | |
| Mar 05, 2024 2:22 pm | |



| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Nyla Davis</p> <p>The ifoster program has been really useful to me since I been in the system without them, I wouldn't have had phones, and I wouldn't been able to communicate text people and just find things without them things would have been much harder for me. So, I want to thank them for creating their program for kids like me to have resources available to us.</p> <p>Mar 05, 2024 2:21 pm</p> | <p>Los Angeles, CA 90003</p> |
| <p>Deanna Garcia</p> <p>Receiving this phone has given me an opportunity many don't get. It helps with my everyday uses making it easier to have access to hotspot for my laptop as well. Thank you so much!</p> <p>Mar 05, 2024 2:19 pm</p> | <p>Covina, CA 91722</p> |
| <p>Ashanti Wince</p> <p>The foster phone helped me at times when I needed to work for school and save money on other important things like rent and groceries.</p> <p>Mar 05, 2024 2:19 pm</p> | <p>Long Beach, CA 90813</p> |
| <p>Natalia Canello</p> <p>In my experience the phone was able to use WiFi and make calls along with the internet. Always had signal and WiFi anywhere I would go. This was a great experience along with money saving.</p> <p>Mar 05, 2024 2:17 pm</p> | <p>Napa, CA 94558</p> |
| <p>Rebeca Luna</p> <p>I have worked with Dually Involved Youth (Foster Care and Juvenile Justice involved youth), Non-Minor Dependents and foster youth who are trafficked. These phones are essential communication lines to our clients and at times their only safety tool. They can receive text and calls to coordinate critical medical and behavioral health care, court hearings, support services, educational services, meet their basic needs and send a call out for help. At times these phones are the only method we have support the most vulnerable youth at urgent and emergent times.</p> <p>Mar 05, 2024 2:16 pm</p> | <p>San Jose, CA 95133</p> |
| <p>Muhammed Jawara</p> <p>This phone has helped me a lot. I use it to call and text my attorneys and social workers and also connect it to my computer and to do my homework and also take online classes.</p> <p>Mar 05, 2024 2:12 pm</p> | <p>Martinez, CA 94553</p> |



Ashley Jones

Phelan, CA 92371

I used this program to get a phone so I can stay in contact with my family and friends and to contact jobs that are hiring. If you take this way from us current and former foster youth you are taking away our way to be connected to the world. When some of us can't afford an actual phone line.

Mar 05, 2024 2:11 pm

Katrina White

San Diego, CA 92123

I was homeless and in need of a phone and with this phone I was able to get a job and get back on my feet. I was able to reach out to support services to get off of the streets and be able to continue college.

Mar 05, 2024 2:10 pm

Bryan Alas

Corona, CA 92883

Dear President Reynolds and Commissioners,

I am writing as a non-minor foster youth participant in the CPUC LifeLine Foster Youth Pilot Program, expressing my deep gratitude for the support it has provided. As someone navigating life without parents, this program has been instrumental in facilitating my education and helping me build a brighter future.

Extending the Foster Youth LifeLine program up to the age of 26, as proposed in the current pilot program, is crucial for individuals like me who face unique challenges. The proposed decision to cut off services at age 18, once out of care, could adversely impact our ability to access essential resources and opportunities.

Quality Internet service and computing devices are not mere luxuries but essential tools for communication, education, and personal development. These tools enable us to connect with caseworkers, lawyers, teachers, classmates, friends, and family. Moreover, they play a pivotal role in completing homework, applying for jobs, pursuing higher education, and accessing crucial health and welfare information.

I urge you to consider the views of foster youth like myself in the final decision on the new California LifeLine Foster Youth program. Ensuring that the program administrator possesses experience and understanding of our unique needs, protecting our personally identifiable information, and providing durable, high-quality devices with adequate data cap are vital considerations. It is very sad if the current program goes away, I have fast internet and it plays a big part in my everyday life.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for the invaluable support that the California LifeLine Foster Youth Program provides. Your decision profoundly impacts our ability to create a promising future.

Mar 05, 2024 2:09 pm



Jazmine Arevalo

Los Angeles, CA 90001

When I got out of the foster care system, my dad was having a hard time trying to support my brother and me. We lived in LA and went to school in Compton, so we took the bus back and forth. Sometimes my brother and I participated in activities, so we got home late, and my dad had no way of contacting us. Our social worker told us about the program, and we signed up. We both got phones and my dad was able to contact us, he was able to pick us up from our activities or on the way home since he knew where we were. I broke my phone once and I spent that entirety just taking the bus the entire way. When I got my replacement, my dad was able to call me. Overall. The phones have helped us keep contact with our dad, we get home safe, and on top of that we can still do activities for school and our personal lives.

Mar 05, 2024 2:08 pm

Angel Jackson

San Diego, CA 92154

The phones have helped me very much because I don't have a phone so it helped so much.

Mar 05, 2024 2:07 pm

Alejandro Rocha

Bakersfield, CA 93307

This phone program has been of great assistance to me and has helped me become a college student and become employed as well without this foster phone program many youth will not have access to technology that can help create a better life like I have created for myself.

Mar 05, 2024 2:06 pm

Joseph Kelly

San Diego, CA 92105

As a foster youth we face many challenges, I'm not going to list all of them here but it's not easy by any means, the odds are stacked against us, in today's world, and the way it runs, cell phones have become much more than a luxury, they are a basic need, you can't get a job, or find your way around, or connect with your loved ones without one, is lack of access to cell phones going to be another setback, another challenging obstacle to face in the reality of someone less fortunate? I think not! I think that our voices will be heard and our needs will be met, I think that the kindness of people around us will always prevail, I think us, as humans got this far by helping each other, and that will not stop now, I know that we are not alone in a world where we face barriers every day, I know that the voices of our children is so loud it cannot be ignored, we will continue to smash down the barriers we are faced with every day because we have on our side empathetic people who give out of the kindness of their heart, and lastly, I know that lack of access to communication devices will not be another thing to make us outcasts of society. We love the help and support we've been given until now, and I'm glad to deliver the push that reignites the wavering flame of passion to help others; keep doing what you are doing, not all heroes wear capes.

Mar 05, 2024 2:05 pm



Britain Sikola

Bakersfield, CA 93305

Having a cell phone from ifoster has dramatically improved my quality of life and ability to carry myself in the real world. Without my ifoster phone I would have missed out on so many opportunities. It limits me to not have my cell phone. Staying connected has greatly changed my credibility and reachability. Please consider keeping this program funded!

Mar 05, 2024 2:01 pm

Gustavo Ramirez

Merced, CA 95348

These program/Foster Phone service has been able to help me in many ways! I am beyond grateful & thankful for this program! It has help me be able to afford & have access to service which I am able to use to keep in contact with my family, apply for jobs, & helps me to be able to communicate with my social worker. These program has also been able to save me money & I am thankful for that! It has helped me be able to stay connected to the outside world in many ways. I also want to be able to help my younger brother be able to get the same program & help like I did because it has help me so much! My brother is also in foster care! But thank you guys!

Mar 05, 2024 2:00 pm

L P

San Jose, CA 95112

This program has helped me in so many ways, more then I can even think of. When transitioning out of foster care they can try to help as much as possible with giving visuals on how to properly care for your personal finances but in my case life has thrown continuous curve balls where I've lost everything time and time again. So having a stable phone line that I can make phone calls for personal documents, jobs or even emergency help on personal trails and tribulations has been such a life saver for me time and time again. Coming from the system life seems to pick up very slow no matter how hard I've worked so having some type of stable help and support like these iFoster phones was very rewarding and reassuring that I'll get somewhere eventually.

Mar 05, 2024 1:59 pm

Alex Garduno

San Diego, CA 92025

Yes, the ifoster phone system has been a huge help to me and other foster care youths. It has helped me a lot since I am currently unemployed, and I am still able to apply to jobs and staying in contact with my caseworkers figuring out how to get employment and having a way to ask for help with programs if I'm in need. But I won't be able to get in contact with my case worker in an emergency if I won't be able to continue using the system that has been a big help to me.

Mar 05, 2024 1:43 pm



Ciara King

Compton, CA 90221

The phone was my first and only phone a after so long when mines broke and I couldn't get another, I was devastated. I could get alot of things done, even in no or low internet, because such good Hotspot that it had.

Mar 05, 2024 1:41 pm

Desiree Melchor

Merced, CA 95340

Since I have received my CPUC phone from iFoster it has helped me stay in contact with my life coach I'm able to talk to my counselor receiving this phone was such a blessing thank you.

Mar 05, 2024 1:39 pm

Jennifer Wilson

Redlands, CA 92373

The foster phone service program has helped me greatly with both my personal and professional life. I was able to make calls to my schools when an error occurred, I was able to go on Zoom and attend meetings through my phone, and I was able to complete school work on my phone as well. When I needed a friend to talk to in a time of sadness, I was able to call. I was able to receive calls from family and friends during emergencies. I was able to use the hotspot on the school laptops when the Wi-Fi was too slow and I needed to complete an assignment. The phones are a blessing and as a struggling individual who has experienced foster care and the hardships, I vouch that it should stay and I vouch it should be extended to those of 26 as well.

Mar 05, 2024 1:39 pm

Will Kidd

Louisville, KY 40218

The iFoster phone has helped me stay in connection with those around me who I love and care about the same way they love and care about me.

Mar 05, 2024 1:38 pm

Eleana Noia

Merced, CA 95340

Having a foster phone really makes life so much easier for me, I'm praying we get to keep these phones.

Mar 05, 2024 1:36 pm

Sam K

Sacramento, CA 95823

I'm still a foster youth and was given a phone with data. It has significantly helped me through trials such as getting a job, contacting work peers and friends. iFoster helped a lot.

Mar 05, 2024 1:32 pm



Tiara Cooks

Van Nuys, CA 91405

The phone has really helped me in a lot of ways with achieving to get work done, having access with high-speed internet to complete my assignments with no worry of connection issues & feeling the relief that the iFoster support team is just a click away to help with any needs I may have!

Mar 05, 2024 1:30 pm

Victorea Hawkins

Paradise, CA 95969

When I first found out about this program I thought no way, I have always struggled with being able to provide for myself, so I decided to give it a try I was very weary about it at first, but now I have been in the program for about a year and even though a phone bill \$50 for \$50 that I save can go towards buying my children diapers, or getting them new clothes when they grow out of it. I know other people that have struggled with so many different changes in my life like I had, like for instance I unexpectedly had a second child who ended up spending three months in an out-of-County hospital. I got so behind on my bills because I was spending weeks in hotels and if it weren't for this program I don't know if I would've had a phone to be able to call my family and let them know how my child was doing or get the phone call that my child needed an extra feeding, I really hope that you are able to help out the foster kids in the system and out of the system. Growing up I honestly did not have the best foster home my foster parents were abusive and we got taken out of their home after 13 years, to be jumped around from house to house because we were older and no one wanted older kids, if I would've known about this phone when I was younger I probably would've helped me be able to call my social worker and let them know the situation I was in. So before you take it away please think about the life that you are affecting.

Mar 05, 2024 1:24 pm

Leif Kennedy

Shasta lake, CA 96019

The phone provided by iFoster helps me with everything. I use it for education, transportation, communication, and entertainment. I would not have been able to get through college if it weren't for this phone. The phone quality is exceptionally good and has always held up for whatever task I have put it to. When I was going to college it helped me by making a hotspot to go on to my computer to get to the internet, while I was on the bus. Sometimes I even ran out of wi-fi at my house, and this phone saved me. If it weren't for this phone having a stable number would have been really hard for me. I've changed numbers multiple times in the past and this has been the most consistent one. I also use this phone to take pictures of my family that I have recently made. The camera makes the pictures worth taking and keeping. I really appreciate the help with a phone plan, and it would make me very sad to see it discontinue and I would like to see a permanent plan.

Mar 05, 2024 1:21 pm



Stephanie Arriaga

Compton, CA 90221

This phone has helped me maintain an active phone line. This phone and phone line give me the peace of mind, knowing I have a stable working phone. I use my phone for college and everyday life. I appreciate the phone and line very much.

Mar 05, 2024 1:12 pm

Melanie Palcios

Los Angeles, CA 94314

These phones help us when sometimes we are struggling and can't even pay to have a phone this phone has helped me when I was looking for jobs and didn't have enough even to feed myself. It has helped me not to worry about that aspect of my life but to worry about the important things it's really important for you not to take this program away for youth like me who at one point was struggling. Please don't add another obstacle in us succeeding and creating a future for ourselves.

Mar 05, 2024 1:11 pm

Victor Alvaro Carmona Vargas

Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Current and Former Foster will be impacted if the program is terminated. I'm 21 years old and have been utilizing the program since 17 years of age. It has helped me financially not to worry about a monthly bill. I been able to focus on my schooling, instead of finding financial means to support myself. It might seem small for a foster youth to have cell service. Nonetheless, it's a resource that is used greatly by us. I'm a current full-time student at UCSC and have completed community college. Establish resources like IFoster have greatly impacted my life as a student who has no support from immediate family. Please don't take away what's need. Respectfully, Victor Alvaro Carmona Vargas.

Mar 05, 2024 1:07 pm

Jaylee Walker

Azusa, CA 91702

My phone has helped me a lot when I was homeless with nothing. My phone service was on and that's the only way I had called someone. If it wasn't for the phone, I wouldn't have been able to call someone to take me to a hotel to sleep.

Mar 05, 2024 12:57 pm

Jordyn Harrington

Vista, CA 92081

My Ifoster phone has helped me so much by making sure I can keep in contact with my friends, family and loved ones. It also has helped me have access to the internet so that I can find jobs.

Mar 05, 2024 12:50 pm



Yuki Huang

San Francisco, CA 94112

With everything going on in life it gives me a piece of mind to know I will have a phone to call for help or apply for a job without worrying that it will be turned off as well as able to have internet to connect to my school system without limited data to make sure I can do all my class work using the hotspot.

Mar 05, 2024 12:49 pm

Rihonnie Wilson

Rialto, CA 92509

The phone has helped me as I was having trouble being able to afford a phone and phone service being a foster youth with no job and hardly any means of transportation. It also helps me when I want to reach out to family members or friends without having to do it through my caretakers. Even having it go to 26 is a blessing and I appreciate every second of it and I'm really grateful for those who helped make it possible.

Mar 05, 2024 12:46 pm

Jaya Ko

San Jose, CA 95112

Having a phone has helped me so much through my high school years. I am able to communicate with my support team when needed, I am able to check on my transportation to school and home, and I'm able to use it for homework when other options aren't available. Apart from school, it has provided me with the security, safety, and comfort of knowing that if I am ever in need of calling or texting someone in an emergency, I can do so quickly and easily. This phone has provided me the opportunity to become more independent and learn how to manage my time and planning. I am able to stay connected to distant relatives and friends that I am not able to see often. Also, with me being shy, using my phone and being able to text and send emails has helped me a lot in expressing my voice and making sure people can understand me when I am unable to do so in person. This phone has also helped me have more freedom in my life, like being able to comfortably go out in public knowing that I can contact my caregiver at any given moment, or even just being able to do more things on my own and not having to rely too much on others. Without this phone, I wouldn't have any of this. And I think that the age being pushed out to 26 is necessary because I can only imagine how much harder it would be for a foster youth to be moving forward in life as an adult without all this. These phones could be lifesaving for those who are trying to figure out their newly adult life while also dealing with college, jobs, or whatever else they may choose. Pushing the age limit will provide these former foster youth more time to get a hold of their adult life with the comfort that their phone is there for them if they ever need help or services. So please, do consider this age change, for it could help foster youth thrive even after foster care.

Mar 05, 2024 12:42 pm



Jaya Ko

San Jose, CA 95112

Hello, I am Jaya Ko, a current foster youth. Having a phone has helped me so much through my highschool years. I am able to communicate with my support team when needed, I am able to check on my transportation to school and home, and I'm able to use for homework when other options aren't available. Apart from school, it has provided me with the security, safety, and comfort knowing that if I am ever in need of calling or texting someone in an emergency, I can do so quickly and easily. This phone has provided me the opportunity to become more independent and learn how to manage my time and planning. I am able to stay connected to distant relatives and friends that I am not able to see often. Also, with me being shy, using my phone and being able to text and send emails has helped me a lot in expressing my voice and making sure people can understand me when I am unable to do so in person. This phone has also helped me have more freedom in my life, like being able to comfortably go out in public knowing that I can contact my caregiver at any given moment, or even just being able to do more things on my own and not having to rely too much on others. Without this phone, I wouldn't have any of this. And I think that the age being pushed out to 26 is necessary because I can only imagine how much harder it would be for a foster youth to be moving forward in life as an adult without all this. These phones could be lifesaving for those who are trying to figure out their newly adult life while also dealing with college, jobs, or whatever else they may choose. Pushing the age limit would provide these former foster youth more time to get a hold of their adult life with the comfort that their phone is there for them if they ever need help or services. So please, do consider this age change, for it could help foster youth thrive even after foster care.

Mar 05, 2024 9:58 am

William G Olsen

Alamo, CA 94507

I am a CASA volunteer and have had a relationship with my foster youth for 5 years, the first 3 of which they did not have a cell phone. Having a cell phone has provided me with the ability to reach my youth, coordinate activities and just check-in with a supportive text. More importantly the youth can reach out to me as plans change, or emergencies arise. Having the phone provided through iFoster can be literally lifesaving. The cell phone also allows the youth to track his school grades and assignments, their sports team schedule and notifications, and employer scheduling and communication. Foster youth are faced with so many obstacles in reaching adulthood. The iFoster program provided a simple effective support tool for them. I urge you to keep this successful program in place as is.

Mar 04, 2024 6:47 pm



Tyler Pitman

La Mesa, CA 91942

My name is Tyler Pitman, and I am making the request to keep the support of the lifeline the way it is. I am a former Foster Youth who's dealt with many fold setbacks in life. The lifeline program has helped since I've been enrolled at the age of 16. It's helpful in so many ways especially with the resources provided on the phones and allowing me to get help in situations I wouldn't have had the ability to.

I would have to expend so much money in the area I am to keep a service in which adds onto the ever rising cost of living. At my age, where it costs over 2k to just live where I'm currently at, anything that reduces the cost is insanely helpful to us who haven't been given the opportunity to settle our lives the way we'd want it to be.

But lets forego the costs for a moment and talk about how helpful this is to have access to a phone in general. For anyone, it allows them to call their family or maintain connections they need to have to build further in life. I wouldn't have been able to maintain contact with my loved ones like my brother without the lifeline and what it provides due to the fact that many households in the system had made an effort to cut off my access to devices and keep me under control and having something that was truly mine gave me freedom and access to things I desperately needed outside of the home. If I needed a ride and uber wasnt an option, or a safe place to go or to be able to call resources that I need to in a time of crisis. To add such strong limitations would hurt so many individuals caught in a gap that isn't being noticed here. You don't stop needing help after 18 or even 20 and its very hard to set up in life without these lifelines. In my view specifically, these lifelines should be intended for helping people who can't normally get the help they need and everyone falls into that line when they are foster youth who have a system that doesnt lead them into a better place with proper support or are down and under due to the rising costs of living each year. I hope everyone reconsiders and understands its not us trying to get a free ride, its about providing the opportunity for people to thrive in an era where costs are going up and access to things are still limited.

Mar 04, 2024 3:45 pm



Gach Chuol

BayArea, CA 94102

I Gach Chuol respectfully raise a crucial question: does anyone within the commission truly grasp the realities faced by current and former foster youth, such as myself?

Regarding the proposed decision of Rulemaking 20-02-008 currently under consideration, which threatens to sever our vital access to internet services, the path forward should be unequivocal and unanimous. The current provision to terminate this lifeline upon aging out of foster care at 18 is not just impractical but downright unjust. Speaking from personal experience, I, like many others, found myself abruptly cut off from essential resources and connections upon entering adulthood, further exacerbating the challenges already inherent in navigating the foster care system as an immigrant child. I love Statistics but they paint a grim picture on how over 50% of youths aging out of foster care face homelessness within the first 18 months. While other's support letter highlights some compelling reasons to maintain this support, it fails to fully convey the profound necessity of internet access in today's world. It is through programs like this that I was able to achieve an AA degree from Pierce College, relying solely on the phone and computer provided the iFoster tech team.

I urge the commission to empathize with and truly understand the perspective of individuals like myself by placing yourselves in our shoes. The decision before you is not just about internet access; it's about providing a lifeline, an opportunity for a better future for those of us who started with a handicap in life.

With gratitude and hope,
GC

Feb 29, 2024 11:07 am