

# Low Income Telephone Assistance Program (LITAP)

Every person in American should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. This principle of “Universal Service” has been the goal of the telecommunications industry for decades. In 1934, the federal government codified the goal and reaffirmed it in 1996 by establishing policies for the “preservation and advancement of Universal Service.”

Effective no later than August 1, 2012, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has mandated a reduction in Lifeline support.

Previously, Tularosa Basin Telephone Company was able to provide a \$10.00 federal Lifeline credit and a \$3.50 state Lifeline credit to qualified Lifeline customers. As a result of the FCC’s action, ***the federal credit has been reduced to \$9.25 which when combined with the \$3.50 state credit; qualified Lifeline subscribers will receive a \$12.75 monthly credit towards their local phone service.***

## What Types of Discounts are Available?

***Lifeline assistance*** lowers the cost of basic monthly local telephone service. Thanks to Federal and State support, eligible consumers can receive \$12.75 per month in discounts and a 25% or \$7.50 discount off the one-time cost associated with initiating telephone service.

***Toll Limitation Service (“TLS”)*** support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring long distance fees to have access to toll blocking services. Effective with recent FCC reform, TLS will be phased out in less that 2 years. Effective May 1, 2012 TLS support will be capped a \$3.00 per month per subscriber. ***TLS support will be reduced to \$2.00 per month on January 1, 2013 and completely eliminated on January 1, 2014.***

## How Do I Know Whether I am Eligible?

TBTC follows FCC support guidelines. Individuals are eligible if you participate in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Federal Public Housing Assistance Program
- Medicaid Program
- Food Stamps Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program

In addition, a consumer can be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines set annually by the federal government.

Please see Table 1.0 for the 2013 eligible annual household income guidelines.

| Household Size                  | Total Annual Household Income |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1                               | \$15,512                      |
| 2                               | \$20,939                      |
| 3                               | \$26,366                      |
| 4                               | \$31,793                      |
| 5                               | \$37,220                      |
| 6                               | \$42,647                      |
| 7                               | \$48,074                      |
| 8                               | \$53,501                      |
| For each additional person, add | \$5,427                       |

Table 1.0: Source: Federal Register, Vol. 78, No. 16, January 24, 2013, pp. 5182 - 5183