

Federal Communications Commission

§ 54.411

mandate state Lifeline support must comply with state verification procedures to validate consumers' continued eligibility for Lifeline.

(2) By one year from the effective date of these rules, eligible telecommunications carriers in states that do not mandate state Lifeline support must implement procedures to verify the continued eligibility of a statistically valid random sample of their Lifeline consumers to verify continued eligibility and provide the results of the sample to the Administrator. If verifying income, an officer of the eligible telecommunications carrier must certify, under penalty of perjury, that the eligible telecommunications carrier has income verification procedures in place and that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the carrier was presented with corroborating income documentation. In addition, the consumer must certify, under penalty of perjury, that the consumer continues to participate in the Lifeline qualifying program or that the presented documentation accurately represents the consumer's household income and the number of individuals in the household.

[69 FR 34600, June 22, 2004]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 69 FR 34600, June 22, 2004, § 54.410 was added. This section contains information collection and record-keeping requirements and will not become effective until approval has been given by the Office of Management and Budget.

§ 54.411 Link Up program defined.

(a) For purposes of this subpart, the term "Link Up" shall describe the following assistance program for qualifying low-income consumers, which an eligible telecommunications carrier shall offer as part of its obligation set forth in §§ 54.101(a)(9) and 54.101(b):

(1) A reduction in the carrier's customary charge for commencing telecommunications service for a single telecommunications connection at a consumer's principal place of residence. The reduction shall be half of the customary charge or \$30.00, whichever is less; and

(2) A deferred schedule for payment of the charges assessed for commencing service, for which the consumer does not pay interest. The interest charges not assessed to the consumer shall be

for connection charges of up to \$200.00 that are deferred for a period not to exceed one year. Charges assessed for commencing service include any charges that the carrier customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network. These charges do not include any permissible security deposit requirements.

(3) For an eligible resident of Tribal lands, a reduction of up to \$70, in addition to the reduction in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, to cover 100 percent of the charges between \$60 and \$130 assessed for commencing telecommunications service at the principal place of residence of the eligible resident of Tribal lands. For purposes of this paragraph, charges assessed for commencing telecommunications services shall include any charges that the carrier customarily assesses to connect subscribers to the network, including facilities-based charges associated with the extension of lines or construction of facilities needed to initiate service. The reduction shall not apply to charges assessed for facilities or equipment that fall on the customer side of demarcation point, as defined in § 68.3 of this chapter.

(b) A qualifying low-income consumer may choose one or both of the programs set forth in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section. An eligible resident of Tribal lands may participate in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3) of this section.

(c) A carrier's Link Up program shall allow a consumer to receive the benefit of the Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for a principal place of residence with an address different from the residence address at which the Link Up assistance was provided previously.

(d) An eligible telecommunications carrier shall publicize the availability of Link Up support in a manner reasonably designed to reach those likely to qualify for the support.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 65 FR 47906, Aug. 4, 2000]