



**Universal Service Administrative Company**  
High Cost & Low Income Division

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Vice President

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**DISCOUNTS ON LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS**

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Lifeline and Link Up are federal mechanisms that help make telephone service more affordable for low-income consumers by providing discounts on basic local telephone service. In 2000, the Federal Communications Commission enhanced these mechanisms by increasing the amount of monthly discounts available to eligible individuals who reside on Indian reservations and Alaskan Native lands. *Under the Federal Communications Commission's rules, eligible consumers living on tribal lands can receive discounts **off** their basic monthly telephone service that can, in most instances, bring the cost of local service to \$1.00 per month. In addition, eligible consumers living on tribal lands can receive discounts **of up to \$100 off the one-time initial charges for commencing new telephone service.***

USAC is a non-profit corporation that administers the Federal Communications Commission's universal service support mechanisms, including Lifeline and Link Up. As part of its mission, USAC conducts outreach to make potential beneficiaries aware of these mechanisms.

Low-income consumers living on reservations can qualify for Lifeline and Link Up benefits in a couple of ways. Consumers living on reservations who participate in one of the following programs are eligible for tribal Lifeline and Link Up benefits:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance;
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families;
- Mead Start (income eligible);
- free meals under the National School Lunch Program;
- Medicaid;
- food stamps;
- Supplemental Security Income;
- federal public housing assistance; or
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

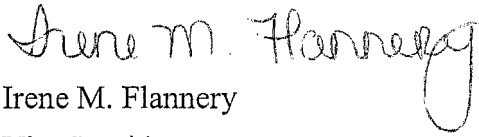
In addition, some states that providing matching funds will have their own criteria that tribal consumers can meet to qualify.

Tribal Outreach Letter  
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Page 2 of 2

Consumers must sign up with their local telephone company to receive Lifeline and Link Up discounts. Additional information about the tribal Lifeline and Link Up mechanisms is available on USAC's website at <http://www.lifelinesupport.org/li/lis/states/tribal.html>.

We hope you will help us spread the word to residents of tribal lands about the availability of discounted local telephone service. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the tribal Lifeline and Link Up mechanisms.

Sincerely,



Irene M. Flannery  
Vice President