

# BELLSOUTH

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August 30, 2005

Beth Salak, Director  
Competitive Markets and Enforcement  
Attn: Tariff Section  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Dear Ms. Salak:

Pursuant to Florida Statute 364.051, attached for filing with the Commission are the following pages of BellSouth's General Subscriber Service Tariff:

General Subscriber Service Tariff

Section A3 - Eighth Revised Page 121.1

Section A4 - Eighth Revised Page 8

The purpose of this filing is to modify the percent of the federal poverty guidelines required to meet qualifications for the state established means test used as Lifeline/Link-Up eligibility criteria. The effective date for the tariff modification is September 14, 2005.

Acknowledgment, date of receipt and authority number of this filing are requested.

Your consideration and approval will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Regulatory Vice President

Attachments

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Description of Proposed Tariff

The purpose of this General Subscriber Service Tariff (GSST) filing is to modify the percent of the federal poverty guidelines required to meet qualifications for the state established means test used as Lifeline/Link-Up eligibility criteria.

Presently customers not receiving benefits under one of the established low income assistance programs as stated in the GSST Section A3.31.2B.1 and whose total gross annual income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of the state established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel for Lifeline/Link-Up eligibility certification. This filing increases the percent of the federal poverty guidelines to 135% in compliance with Florida Statute Section 364.10 (3)(a).

The proposed effective date of this filing is September 14, 2005.

### Estimated Revenue Impact

This filing has no revenue impact.

### A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

#### A3.31 Lifeline (Cont'd)

##### A3.31.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

###### B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
  - g. National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL)
2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed **one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%)** of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification. (C)
3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

###### C. Certification

1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service; or eligible Lifeline subscribers may enroll in the Lifeline program by signing a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the customer participates in one of the Florida Lifeline eligible programs and identifying the qualifying program. The Lifeline credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis.
2. BellSouth working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies will verify subscriber eligibility twice over a period of one year. Information obtained during such verification audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
3. When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of verification, the Company will contact the customer. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued and at such time the customer will be transitioned to the Lifeline Transitional Discount (LTD), as set forth in A3.23 of this tariff.
4. Resellers providing Lifeline service from this tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service. As set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 417(a) and (b), a reseller must provide a certification, upon request, to BellSouth that it is complying with all FCC and applicable State requirements governing Lifeline/Link-Up programs, including certification and verification procedures. Resellers are required to retain the required documentation for three (3) years and be able to produce the documentation to the Commission or its Administrator to demonstrate that they are providing discounted services only to qualified low-income customers as outlined in B.1. and B.2. preceding. Disclosure requirements described in 2. preceding are applicable to resellers of Lifeline service.

## A4. SERVICE CHARGES

### A4.7 Link-Up (Cont'd)

#### A4.7.2. Regulations (Cont'd)

##### B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a Link-Up credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
  - g. National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL)
2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed one hundred and *thirty-five* percent (*135%*) of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification. (C)
3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

##### C. Certification

1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service. Link-Up eligible subscribers may receive the Link-Up credit by signing a document certifying, under penalty of perjury, that the customer participates in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs. The Link-Up credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document, the requested service will be provided without the Link-Up credit.
2. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Link-Up plan.
3. Resellers providing Link-Up service from this Tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service. As set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 417(a) and (b), a reseller must provide a certification, upon request, to BellSouth that it is complying with all FCC and applicable State requirements governing Lifeline/Link-Up programs, including certification and verification procedures. Resellers are required to retain the required documentation for three (3) years and be able to produce the documentation to the Commission or its Administrator to demonstrate that they are providing discounted services only to qualified low-income customers as outlined in B.1. and B.2. preceding. Disclosure requirements described in 2. preceding are applicable to resellers of Link-Up service.

#### A4.7.3 Rates and Charges

- A. The federal credit available for a Link-Up connection is thirty dollars (\$30.00) maximum or fifty percent (50%) of the installation and service charges from this Tariff, whichever is less.
- B. Link-Up is identified and provisioned by the USOC LNK.

#### A4.7.4 Tribal Link-Up

##### A. Description of Service

Qualified residents of federally recognized tribal lands may receive up to seventy dollars (\$70.00) in additional federal Link-Up support for their residential service. The additional credit is available to cover regulated charges applicable for the initial connection of service, such as installation and service charges, line extension and special construction charges. All Link-Up regulations are applicable to Tribal Link-Up.

## A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### A3.31 Lifeline (Cont'd)

#### A3.31.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

##### B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
  - g. National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL) (N)
2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed ~~125%~~ one hundred and thirty-five percent (135%) of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification. (C)
3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

##### C. Certification

1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service; or eligible Lifeline subscribers may enroll in the Lifeline program by signing a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the customer participates in one of the Florida Lifeline eligible programs and identifying the qualifying program. The Lifeline credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis.
2. BellSouth working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies will verify subscriber eligibility twice over a period of one year. Information obtained during such verification audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
3. When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of verification, the Company will contact the customer. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued and at such time the customer will be transitioned to the Lifeline Transitional Discount (LTD), as set forth in A3.23 of this tariff.
4. Resellers providing Lifeline service from this tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service. As set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 417(a) and (b), a reseller must provide a certification, upon request, to BellSouth that it is complying with all FCC and applicable State requirements governing Lifeline/Link-Up programs, including certification and verification procedures. Resellers are required to retain the required documentation for three (3) years and be able to produce the documentation to the Commission or its Administrator to demonstrate that they are providing discounted services only to qualified low-income customers as outlined in B.1. and B.2. preceding. Disclosure requirements described in 2. preceding are applicable to resellers of Lifeline service. (E)

## A4. SERVICE CHARGES

### A4.7 Link-Up (Cont'd)

#### A4.7.2. Regulations (Cont'd)

##### B. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for a Link-Up credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
  - g. National School Lunch's free lunch program (NSL) (N)
2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed one hundred and ~~twenty-five~~ ~~thirty-five~~ percent (~~125%~~ ~~135%~~) of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification. (C) (P)
3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

##### C. Certification

1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service. Link-Up eligible subscribers may receive the Link-Up credit by signing a document certifying, under penalty of perjury, that the customer participates in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs. The Link-Up credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document, the requested service will be provided without the Link-Up credit.
2. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Link-Up plan.
3. Resellers providing Link-Up service from this Tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service. As set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 417(a) and (b), a reseller must provide a certification, upon request, to BellSouth that it is complying with all FCC and applicable State requirements governing Lifeline/Link-Up programs, including certification and verification procedures. Resellers are required to retain the required documentation for three (3) years and be able to produce the documentation to the Commission or its Administrator to demonstrate that they are providing discounted services only to qualified low-income customers as outlined in B.1. and B.2. preceding. Disclosure requirements described in 2. preceding are applicable to resellers of Link-Up service. (E)

#### A4.7.3 Rates and Charges

- A. The federal credit available for a Link-Up connection is thirty dollars (\$30.00) maximum or fifty percent (50%) of the installation and service charges from this Tariff, whichever is less. (P)
- B. Link-Up is identified and provisioned by the USOC LNK.

#### A4.7.4 Tribal Link-Up

##### A. Description of Service

Qualified residents of federally recognized tribal lands may receive up to seventy dollars (\$70.00) in additional federal Link-Up support for their residential service. The additional credit is available to cover regulated charges applicable for the initial connection of service, such as installation and service charges, line extension and special construction charges. All Link-Up regulations are applicable to Tribal Link-Up. (M)

Material previously appearing on this page now appears on page(s) 9 of this section.