

LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) kicked off the fourth annual Lifeline Awareness Week, September 10-14, with a workshop on Friday, September 7 in Tallahassee. Social service agencies whose clients can benefit from the Lifeline Assistance discount telephone program, state agencies facilitating Lifeline's promotion and application process, and telecommunications companies offering Lifeline attended.

This year, Lifeline underwent Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule changes to curb program abuse. Rules now limit benefits to one per eligible household, with annual recertification required to continue receiving the benefits. The workshop focused on ways to increase program participation and ensure that consumers enrolling in Lifeline are not already receiving the service.

"With a little help from my friends,' as the song says, we appreciate those agencies helping us avoid duplicative services to ensure that the Lifeline program benefits even more eligible Floridians," said PSC Chairman Ronald Brisé. "Florida was one of two states recognized by the FCC last year for leadership in identifying and eliminating program fraud."

Agencies that attended the workshop included: United Way of the Big Bend, Tallahassee Housing Authority, Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Departments of Children and Families, Economic Opportunity, Elder Affairs, and Health, Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc., 2-1-1 Big Bend, AARP, and WorkforcePlus.

During Lifeline Awareness Week, the PSC hosted information sessions in Jacksonville, Miami Gardens, Riviera Beach, Tampa, Palm Beach Gardens, and Lauderhill to help seniors and low-income Floridians learn about and apply for the program.

The FCC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates also supported this year's National Lifeline Awareness Week.



The Lifeline Assistance Program gives a \$12.75 credit per month on local phone bills.

You may be eligible for savings if you receive benefits under one of these programs:

- ◆ Temporary Cash Assistance
- ◆ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - ◆ Medicaid
- ◆ Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - ◆ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - ◆ Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- ◆ National School Lunch (NSL) Program's free lunch program

CLICK HERE TO
APPLY

CLICK HERE FOR
BROCHURES

If you have questions about eligibility, or would like to sign-up for either of these programs, please check the front pages of your telephone directory and call your local telephone company.