



FLORIDA PSC

KICKS OFF

NATIONAL

LIFELINE

AWARENESS

WEEK

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) kicked off the **2013 National Lifeline Awareness Week**, September 9-15, on Thursday, September 5, at the Springfield Community Center in Tallahassee. In its fifth year, Lifeline Awareness Week events, held throughout the state by the PSC, inform consumers about the benefits of the Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) discounted telephone program.

Those who are eligible can save up to \$111 annually on their local phone bills.

During the kickoff event, PSC Chairman Ronald A. Brisé highlighted the Lifeline program's benefits and the PSC's partnership with the Tallahassee Housing Authority. Other speakers included Senator Bill Montford, Representative Alan Williams, City of Tallahassee Mayor John Marks, Leon County Commission Chairman Nick Maddox, and Brenda Williams, Executive Director, Tallahassee Housing Authority. Telecommunication representatives set up booths on site to help eligible consumers sign up for services.

"In challenging times, it's vital that Florida residents be aware of the discounted phone service available to them, and this year's National Lifeline Awareness Week highlights those agencies helping us spread the word," Chairman Brisé said. "Through our continuing partnerships with many agencies, such as the Tallahassee Housing Authority, we ensure that residents have access to one of today's basic necessities—phone service."

"Some of our most vulnerable residents depend on assistance at this time. For these residents, the telephone is a vital tool to help them find jobs or contact needed community services," said Ms. Williams. "I appreciate the PSC, the Public Counsel, and the companies for raising awareness about Lifeline and making the program available to our residents."

Joining other states in celebrating National Lifeline Awareness Week, Florida's kickoff began a series of statewide events to help seniors and low-income Floridians learn about and apply for the program. The PSC held events in Lakeland, Lake Worth, Bartow, Palm Beach Gardens, and Lauderhill.

The federal Lifeline Assistance program offers customers who participate in certain public assistance programs—or who qualify based on income—a basic telephone service discount of at least \$9.25 per month, or \$111 per year. Both landline and wireless providers offer the program. To access Lifeline applications and for more information, visit www.FloridaPSC.com.