



Florida PSC Joins Other States in Recognizing National Lifeline Awareness Week

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) participated in National Lifeline Awareness Week, September 9–13, 2019, encouraging low-income consumers to apply for the Lifeline discount on phone or Internet service. Lifeline helps keep consumers connected to family, friends, and community, as well as important emergency services.

The PSC held information sessions in seven Florida communities during the week. Information and applications were available at the events and are also available online.

Making communications services more affordable for low-income consumers, the federal Lifeline program provides a \$9.25 monthly discount. The Lifeline program can be a life changer for eligible veterans, unemployed workers, the homeless and disabled, older adults and other low-income Floridians. Those who already participate in an approved federal assistance program probably qualify for Lifeline and can easily apply for the discount.

The Lifeline benefit can only be used toward phone (landline or wireless) or internet (broadband), but not both. One discount is allowed per household. Lifeline customers must recertify their program eligibility every year. More information on program eligibility, rules, and key messages is available on the Federal Communications Commission's website.

To participate in Lifeline, consumers must have an income at or below 135 percent of the federal Poverty Guidelines, or they (or someone in their household) must participate in one of these federal assistance programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Tribal Programs (and live on federally-recognized Tribal lands)