

LifeLine

FREE SMARTPHONES FOR FOSTER YOUTH AGES 18 TO 26

LIFELINE SMARTPHONES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

Since 1985, the LifeLine program has provided a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. Over 60 million people are currently using LifeLine services nationwide. LifeLine is administered by the Public Utilities Commission in every state.

Foster youth over the age of 18 are eligible for LifeLine services under the Medi-Cal qualifying provision. Foster youth are eligible to receive Medi-Cal until age 26, and therefore are eligible to receive LifeLine services until age 26. However, most foster youth, their caregivers, and child welfare agencies are not aware of the service or foster youth eligibility. Those that know about the “Obamaphone” often don’t understand that the phone is free and the monthly service is free.

On March 31, 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a reform of the LifeLine program to include broadband as a support service in addition to landline and cellular services. Individuals can apply for one of landline phone, broadband service into the home, or cell service.

Starting in January, 2017, new LifeLine cellular services now include data—making it a combo deal (voice, text, data). Few people know the new cellular offering includes a free smartphone along with monthly free amounts of voice, text and data.

LIFELINE CELLULAR SERVICE—FREE MONTHLY SERVICE

- Free Android Smartphone
- 350 minutes talk time
- Unlimited text
- 500MB of data
- Account holders can prepay or pay as they go to

LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only one LifeLine account is allowed per household which is assumed to be a location (1 household per physical location). Foster Youth are considered their own “household”, so Foster Youth located in foster homes, group homes, transitional housing, dorms, etc qualify independently from each other. However, it is a more difficult eligibility process to get approved for a multi-household location which is why iFoster partners with carriers and helps Foster Youth apply to ensure they get approved.

IFOSTER CAN HELP FOSTER YOUTH GET THIS FREE SERVICE

The application process is complicated, particularly for Foster Youth living in a location with multiple households (i.e. group home, transitional housing, dorm, foster home), the fallout rate is high and applications often fall into a black hole or get denied. iFoster works directly with eligible Foster Youth, approved carriers and the independent 3rd party who reviews and approves applications to ensure Foster Youth applications are approved.

CALL OR EMAIL IFOSTER TO FIND OUT HOW TO GET YOUR YOUTH SIGNED UP!



1-855-936-7837

www.ifoster.org