



California LifeLine Program

Eligibility Guidelines

General guidelines

1. Only **one** California LifeLine benefit per household, except for TTY users.
2. Households must choose to get the benefit either for a home phone or a cell phone, but not both.
3. Households cannot get the benefit from more than one phone company.
4. To get the benefit, you must give your signature, date of birth, and the last 4 numbers of your Social Security number or your complete tribal ID number.
5. Individuals who do not follow the one benefit per household rule will lose the benefit and may be prosecuted by the U.S. government.
6. Individuals can be punished for giving false information to get the benefit. Penalties can include imprisonment, losing the benefit, monetary fines, and being banned from the California LifeLine program.
7. Applicants cannot be claimed as a dependent on another person's income tax return.
8. The applicant signing the form must be the same person listed under the Home Address in Step 1.
9. The discount for the service connection charge can only be for the primary residence.
10. You cannot transfer the LifeLine benefit to anyone else. They must apply for the program.

Income-based guidelines

If you are qualifying by income, your household's total annual (yearly) gross income (before taxes) must be at or below the California LifeLine annual income limits for your household size. A **household** includes adults and children who live together at the same address as one economic unit.

An economic unit consists of all adults (persons at least 18 years old) contributing to and sharing in the household's income and expenses. Any household size is acceptable.

If your household has more than 10 members, add \$8,500 to \$100,600 for each additional member to find out the matching California LifeLine annual income limit.

Check the Income Table to find if your household qualifies.

Gross income is defined as money received **before taxes** by **everyone in your household** (adults and children), whether taxable or non-taxable, including, but not limited to: wages, salaries, interest, dividends, alimony and child support, grants, gifts, allowances, stipends, lottery winnings, inheritances,

Note

- Do **not** send cash, checks, or these guidelines.
- After you are approved, if you think you no longer qualify for the benefit or if your household is getting more than one benefit by mistake, you must tell us or your phone company within **30 days**.
- To stay in the program, you must **renew** each year.
- California LifeLine participation only lasts for one year.
- Mail **copies** of a medical certificate, proof of income, and proof of program participation. Do **not** send original documents. We cannot return them to you.

Income Calculator

Weekly gross income	x 52 =	Annual income
Biweekly gross income	x 26 =	Annual income
Monthly gross income	x 12 =	Annual income





worker's compensation, unemployment and public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, rental income, income from self-employment, and cash payments from other sources, and all employment-related non-cash income.

Mail copies of proof that your household's total annual gross income meets the annual income limits with your completed and signed application.

Types of proof

Program-based types of proof (send copies only)

- Identification card or number from a qualifying assistance program
- Statement of benefits from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and/or a qualifying assistance program
- Notice of eligibility or decision letter of participation from a qualifying assistance program
- Other official documents

Income-based types of proof (send copies only)

- Front page only of prior year's state (540, 540A, 540 2EZ, 540NR, or 540X), federal (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, 1040NR, 1040NR-EZ, 1040SS, or 1040X), or tribal tax return
- Income statements or paycheck stubs for 3 consecutive months within the previous 12 months
- Statement of benefits from Social Security, Veterans Administration, retirement/pension, Unemployment Compensation, Workers' Compensation, and/or a qualifying assistance program
- Alimony and/or child support documents, and/or other official documents

Second California LifeLine benefit

California LifeLine was notified that you want to apply for a second telephone line with California LifeLine. The person who uses a teletypewriter (TTY) must have immediate and continuous access to it. If the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program did not give the TTY, submit a copy of a medical certificate that shows the person's need for a TTY.

To get the second California LifeLine benefit, your household must still qualify by program or by income.

Enhanced LifeLine and Link-Up

California LifeLine was notified that you want to apply for the Enhanced LifeLine or Link-Up programs for consumers who live on federally recognized tribal lands.

To get this benefit, your household must still qualify by program or by income.

Not all phone companies offer Enhanced LifeLine and Link-Up.

Income Table	
Household Size	California LifeLine Annual Income Limits
1 member	\$24,200
2 members	\$32,600
3 members	\$41,100
4 members	\$49,600
5 members	\$58,100
6 members	\$66,600
7 members	\$75,100
8 members	\$83,600
9 members	\$92,100
10 members	\$100,600
Income Guidelines are effective from June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026	

