

Public Service Commission

Garry A. Brown, Chairman

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LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 10-16

—Eligible Consumers Can Sign Up for Monthly Phone Bill Discount at Outreach Events—

Albany, NY—09/07/12—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission), today announced additional outreach events to be held during “*Lifeline Awareness Week*,” September 10-16, 2012, to encourage income-eligible customers to sign up for a discount on their telephone service through the Lifeline program. The program provides qualified consumers with discounts for monthly residential phone bills for basic telephone service.

“As part of a national effort, the Commission wants to stress the need to raise awareness of this important and valuable program that provides discounts to low-income New Yorkers for primary residential telephone service,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Although the program has been in place for over 25 years, many eligible customers fail to take advantage of the discount offered under the Lifeline program. I hope more eligible New Yorkers will take advantage of this valuable initiative.”

Customers interested in enrolling in the Lifeline program, may wish to attend one of the following previously announced kickoff events on **September 10, 2012**:

Albany Public Library
161 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

William K. Sanford Town Library
629 Albany Shaker Road
Loudonville, NY
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

North Tonawanda Food Pantry
100 Ridge Street North
Tonawanda, NY
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Great Kills Friendship Club
11 Sampson Avenue
Staten Island, NY
10 a.m. – Noon

Additional Lifeline events will be held on **September 13, 2012**:

Lansingburgh Veterans Club
777 First Avenue
North Troy, NY
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jay-Harama Senior Center
2600 Ocean Avenue
Brooklyn, NY
10:0 a.m. – Noon

Under the Lifeline program, wireline customers receive a waiver of the federal subscriber line charge, a savings of at least \$75 annually, as well as a discount on their basic local service charge. The total discount varies depending on the local telephone service provider and the program includes some wireless and cellular service providers.

Customers are eligible for the Lifeline program discount if their income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if they participate in any of the following assistance programs—Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Food Stamps, Medicaid, Veterans’ Disability or Surviving Spouse Pension, Family Assistance, Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Free School Lunch Program or the Safety Net Assistance. Additional information regarding the Lifeline program is available by visiting the Commission’s www.AskPSC.com consumer Web site.