BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

150 South Monroe Street Suite 400 Tallahassee, Florida 32301

marshall.criser@bellsouth.com

Marshall M. Criser III
Vice-President
Regulatory & External Affairs

(850) 224-7798 Fax (850) 224-5073

February 22, 2005

Beth Salak, Director Competitive Markets and Enforcement Attn: Tariff Section 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Dear Ms. Salak:

Pursuant to Florida Statute 364.051, attached for filing with the Commission are the following pages of BellSouth's General Subscriber Service Tariff:

# **General Subscriber Service Tariff**

Section A3 - Sixth Revised Page 121.1

Section A4 - Sixth Revised Page 8

The purpose of this filing is to modify the Lifeline/Link-Up certification procedures as set forth by Order No. PSC-05-0153-AS-TL, Docket No. 040604-TL. The effective date for the tariff modification is March 24, 2005.

Acknowledgment, date of receipt and authority number of this filing are requested.

Your consideration and approval will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Marshall M. Criser III (mrs)
Regulatory Vice President
Attachments

# **Program Description**

The purpose of this filing is to add the simplified certification process to the Lifeline/Link-Up certification procedures as set forth by Order No. PSC-05-0153-AS-TL, issued February 8, 2005 in Docket No. 040604-TL. The effective date for the tariff modification is March 24, 2005.

Fifth-Sixth Revised Page 121.1 Cancels Fouth-Fifth Revised Page 121.1

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2002 March 24, 2005

ISSUED: February 14, 2002 February 22, 2005 BY: Joseph P. Lacher, President -FL

Miami, Florida

# A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

# A3.31 Lifeline (Cont'd)

### A3.31.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

### B. Eligibility

- 1. To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
- 2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification.
- 3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

#### C. Certification

- 1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service. The Lifeline credit will not be established until proof of eligibility has been received by the Company. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of proof of eligibility, the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. or eligible Lifeline subscribers may enroll in the Lifeline program by signing a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the customer participates in one of the Florida Lifeline eligible programs and identifying the qualifying program. The Lifeline credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis.
- 2. The Company reserves the right to periodically audit its records, working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies, for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility. Information obtained during such audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. BellSouth working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies will verify subscriber eligibility twice over a period of one year. Information obtained during such verification audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
- 3. When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of <u>an audit verification</u>, the Company will contact the customer. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued on the following bill, and at such time the customer will be transitioned to the Lifeline Transitional Discount (LTD), as set forth in A3.23 of this tariff.
- 4. Resellers providing Lifeline service from this tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service. Disclosure requirements described in 2, preceding are applicable to resellers of Lifeline service.

(M)

(C)

(C)

(N)

(T)

(C)

(C)

Material previously appearing on this page now appears on page(s) 121.1.1 of this section.

Fifth Sixth Revised Page 8
Cancels Fourth Fifth Revised Page 8

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2002 March 24, 2005

ISSUED: February 14, 2002 February 22, 2005 BY: Joseph P. Lacher, President -FL

# A4. SERVICE CHARGES

# A4.7 Link-Up (Cont'd)

### A4.7.2. Regulations (Cont'd)

### B. Eligibility

Miami, Florida

- To be eligible for a Link-Up credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
- 2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification.
- 3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

#### C. Certification

- 1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service. Link-Up eligible subscribers may receive the Link-Up credit by signing a document certifying, under penalty of perjury, that the customer participates in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs. The Link-Up credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document proof of eligibility has been received by the Company. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document without proof of eligibility, the requested service will be provided without the Link-Up credit.
- The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Link-Up plan.
- 3. Resellers providing Link-Up service from this Tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service. Disclosure requirements described in 2. preceding are applicable to resellers of Link Up service.

#### A4.7.3 Rates and Charges

- A. The federal credit available for a Link-Up connection is \$30.00 (maximum) or fifty percent (50%) of the installation and service charges from this Tariff, whichever is less.
- B. Link-Up is identified and provisioned by the USOC LNK.

### A4.7.4 Tribal Link-Up

### A. Description of Service

Qualified residents of federally recognized tribal lands may receive up to \$70.00 in additional federal Link-Up support for their residential service. The additional credit is available to cover regulated charges applicable for the initial connection of service, such as installation and service charges, line extension and special construction charges. All Link-Up regulations are applicable to Tribal Link-Up.

### B. Eligibility

To qualify, in addition to meeting a tribal land residency requirement, the customer may be a current recipient of any of the programs identified for Lifeline, Link-Up, or may be a recipient of one of the following federal programs:

- 1. BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) General Assistance
- 2. TANF tribally administered block grant program
- C. Reserved for Future Use
- **D.** Rates and Charges
  - 1. A federal credit of up to \$70 is available to cover 100 percent of the connection charges between \$60.00 and \$130.00.
  - 2. The Tribal Link-Up credit is in addition to the Link-Up credits preceding.

All BellSouth marks contained herein and as set forth in the trademarks and servicemarks section of this Tariff are owned by BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation.

(<del>N)</del>

<del>(T)</del>

(C)

(C)

ISSUED: February 22, 2005

BY: Joseph P. Lacher, President -FL

Miami, Florida

Sixth Revised Page 121.1 Cancels Fifth Revised Page 121.1

EFFECTIVE: March 24, 2005

(C)

(C)

(C)

# A3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICE TARIFF

# A3.31 Lifeline (Cont'd)

### A3.31.2 Regulations (Cont'd)

### B. Eligibility

- To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance
  - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
- Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification.
- All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

#### Certification

- Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service; or eligible Lifeline subscribers may enroll in the Lifeline program by signing a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the customer participates in one of the Florida Lifeline eligible programs and identifying the qualifying program. The Lifeline credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis.
- BellSouth working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies will verify subscriber eligibility twice over a period of one year. Information obtained during such verification audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
- When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of verification, the Company will contact the customer. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued and at such time the customer will be transitioned to the Lifeline Transitional Discount (LTD), as set forth in A3.23 of this tariff.
- Resellers providing Lifeline service from this tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting (C) the service.

All BellSouth marks contained herein and as set forth in the trademarks and servicemarks section of this Tariff are owned by BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation.

Sixth Revised Page 8 Cancels Fifth Revised Page 8

EFFECTIVE: March 24, 2005

ISSUED: February 22, 2005

BY: Joseph P. Lacher, President -FL

Miami, Florida

**FLORIDA** 

# **A4. SERVICE CHARGES**

# A4.7 Link-Up (Cont'd)

### A4.7.2. Regulations (Cont'd)

### B. Eligibility

- 1. To be eligible for a Link-Up credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low income assistance programs.
  - a. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), previously known as AFDC
  - b. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - c. Food Stamps
  - d. Medicaid
  - e. Federal public housing/Section 8
  - f. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Plan (LIHEAP)
- 2. Additionally, customers not receiving benefits under one of the preceding programs, and whose total gross annual income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, meet the requirements of a State established means test and may apply directly to the Office of Public Counsel (OPC) for eligibility certification.
- 3. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

#### C. Certification

- 1. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application for service. Link-Up eligible subscribers may receive the Link-Up credit by signing a document certifying, under penalty of perjury, that the customer participates in any of the qualifying low income assistance programs. The Link-Up credit will not be established until the Company has received such signed document. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of such signed document, the requested service will be provided without the Link-Up credit.
- The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Link-Up plan.
- 3. Resellers providing Link-Up service from this Tariff are responsible for determining proof of eligibility prior to requesting the service.

### A4.7.3 Rates and Charges

- A. The federal credit available for a Link-Up connection is \$30.00 (maximum) or fifty percent (50%) of the installation and service charges from this Tariff, whichever is less.
- B. Link-Up is identified and provisioned by the USOC LNK.

### A4.7.4 Tribal Link-Up

### A. Description of Service

Qualified residents of federally recognized tribal lands may receive up to \$70.00 in additional federal Link-Up support for their residential service. The additional credit is available to cover regulated charges applicable for the initial connection of service, such as installation and service charges, line extension and special construction charges. All Link-Up regulations are applicable to Tribal Link-Up.

### B. Eligibility

To qualify, in addition to meeting a tribal land residency requirement, the customer may be a current recipient of any of the programs identified for Lifeline, Link-Up, or may be a recipient of one of the following federal programs:

- 1. BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) General Assistance
- 2. TANF tribally administered block grant program
- C. Reserved for Future Use
- **D.** Rates and Charges
  - 1. A federal credit of up to \$70 is available to cover 100 percent of the connection charges between \$60.00 and \$130.00.
  - 2. The Tribal Link-Up credit is in addition to the Link-Up credits preceding.

(C)

(C)

All BellSouth marks contained herein and as set forth in the trademarks and servicemarks section of this Tariff are owned by BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation.