

October 28, 2020

Mr. William Seufert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Response to Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Request for Information in Docket No. 20-747

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Enclosed please find the Initial Comments for Sacred Heart Telephone Company as a High Cost ETC in Docket No. P999/CI-20-747.

Please call me at 651-621-8306 with any questions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mary T. Buley*

Mary T. Buley  
Telecommunications Consultant

Enclosure

cc: Mark Aaberg, Hanson Communications

Initial Comments for Sacred Heart Telephone Company as a High Cost ETC in Minnesota  
PUC Docket No. 20-747

1. Current number of Lifeline Customers as of 9/30/20
  - a. Study Area Code: (361476) 9 lifeline customers

2. How are Lifeline Services Advertised:

Sacred Heart advertises Lifeline on its website at:

<https://sacredheart.hcinet.net/residential/residential-pricing/>

In addition, Sacred Heart advertises in the local newspaper and provides annually a bill message concerning Lifeline services.

3. Provide Samples of Lifeline Advertising: Attached is Exhibit 1 which is a scan of Sacred Heart's webpage on lifeline services. Exhibit 2 includes copies of the newspaper ad that ran on Lifeline and the bill message provided to customers.
4. No Comments.

## Exhibit 1 for Sacred Heart Telephone Company copy of Website on Lifeline

# Residential Pricing



### Local Residential Phone Service

**\$22.50/mo**

- Basic Telephone Landline, Local Number, 911 Service

### Unlimited Long Distance

**\$14.95/mo**

- Unlimited calling anywhere in the US, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa.
- Requires Local Residential Phone Service (not included).
- Basic long distance is also available, please call for pricing.

### 7 Cent Plan

**\$4.95/mo**

- 7 cents a minute to call anywhere in the US, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa.
- Requires Local Residential Phone Service (not included).
- Basic long distance is also available, please call for pricing.

### Having trouble paying for phone or internet service?

You may qualify for the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) and federal Lifeline Program. Program eligibility is based on income. TAP is limited to landline home service. Lifeline credits may be used for internet services, in addition to landline services. Contact us at 320-765-2235 or visit the below websites for information or an application.

[Telephone Discounts](#)

[Lifeline Program Application Form](#)

[Lifeline Program Household Worksheet](#)

*Sacred Heart*  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

## *Phone Discounts for Low-Income Users*

As a Sacred Heart Telephone customer, you may qualify for one of three programs that provide assistance to you in paying your monthly telephone or broadband bill. This federally funded program will provide a credit each month on your monthly bill. Some limitations apply. Please contact our office (320) 765-2235.



Phone Discounts for Low-Income Users

As a Minnesota consumer, you may qualify for one of the three programs that provide assistance with paying your telephone and broadband bill. Data shows that many Minnesota consumers are not aware of their eligibility for these programs.

Lifeline:

This is a federally funded program that will provide a credit of up to \$9.25 each month on your phone or broadband bill. To be eligible, you must be enrolled in one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (food stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Programs

If you are not on the above programs, but your income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, you may also apply for and receive the discount. You will need to attach proof of your income to your application.

Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP):

This program offers an additional \$7.00 monthly discount on your phone bill. Eligibility requirements are the same as Lifeline above.

Link -Up:

This national program will pay up to 50% of your local telephone service connection and installation charges, up to a maximum of \$30.

Eligibility requirements are the same as for Lifeline list above.

Telephone Equipment Distribution (TED) Provides equipment for those who have hearing loss, speech, and/or mobility impairments that limit their use of a standard telephone.

To be eligible, you must:

- Have phone or broadband service or applied for phone or broadband service; and
- Meet income guidelines.
- Contact the Sacred Heart Telephone Company for more information or an application

Persons in Family Unit    48 Contiguous State and D.C.

Persons in Family Unit	48 Contiguous State and D.C.
1	\$17,226
2	\$23,274
3	\$29,322
4	\$35,370
5	\$41,418
6	\$47,466
7	\$53,514
8	\$59,562

For Each Additional Person add                                      \$6,048

Contact Sacred Heart Telephone Company for more information or an application (320) 765-2235