

LOW-INCOME IOWANS MAY QUALIFY FOR TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

Assistance to pay for telephone service is available to qualifying low-income Harlan Municipal Utilities (HMU) telephone customers as part of two federal support programs. These programs, “Lifeline Assistance” and “Link-Up,” are available through HMU.

- “Lifeline” is a plan that assists customers by providing a monthly credit on their telephone bill.
- “Link-Up” is a plan that helps customers pay for the installation of basic telephone service by reducing connection charges by 50 percent, or \$30, whichever is less. (*The Harlan Municipal Utilities does not charge an installation fee*)

Another feature of the Lifeline program enables customers to avoid paying a service deposit if they voluntarily agree to have long distance calling blocked from their telephone. (*The Harlan Municipal Utilities does not charge a deposit fee*)

HMU customers whose income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for assistance. Additionally, customers who participate in one or more of the following programs are eligible:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program (NSL)

To apply for either or both of these assistance plans, applicants should submit an application to HMU at 405 Chatburn in Harlan, IA. Application forms can be obtained at the HMU office at 405 Chatburn in Harlan. This application is also available on the Iowa Utilities Board website at <http://www.state.ia.us/government/com/util/forms/CustServ/LifelineLinkup.pdf> (Click on the link to see the form)

Lifeline and Link-Up benefit the public by ensuring affordable access to telephone service for everyone. Eligible HMU telephone customers are encouraged to submit their application and call HMU at 755-5182 with questions.