



Universal Service Administrative Company

Lifeline Program Overview
National Association of Counties

Thursday, August 11, 2016

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- The questions box and buttons are on the right side of the webinar window.
- This box can collapse so that you can better view the presentation. To unhide the box, click the arrows on the top left corner of the panel.
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Question & Answer instructions

- Type your question into the “Questions” box at any time during the presentation, and the moderator will read the question on your behalf during the Q&A session.

Ryan Moxom, Program Analyst, Lifeline Program

ryan.moxom@usac.org

Nathan Kim, Program Analyst, Lifeline Program

nathan.kim@usac.org

The Universal Service Administrative Company is dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of delivering pervasive, affordable connectivity to all people who live in the United States.

- The FCC sets policy for and oversees the four Universal Service Fund Programs
 - High Cost / Connect America Fund
 - Schools & Libraries
 - Rural Health Care
 - Lifeline
- USAC is the permanent administrator of these programs, and is a passionate partner in delivering universal service.

What is the Lifeline Program?



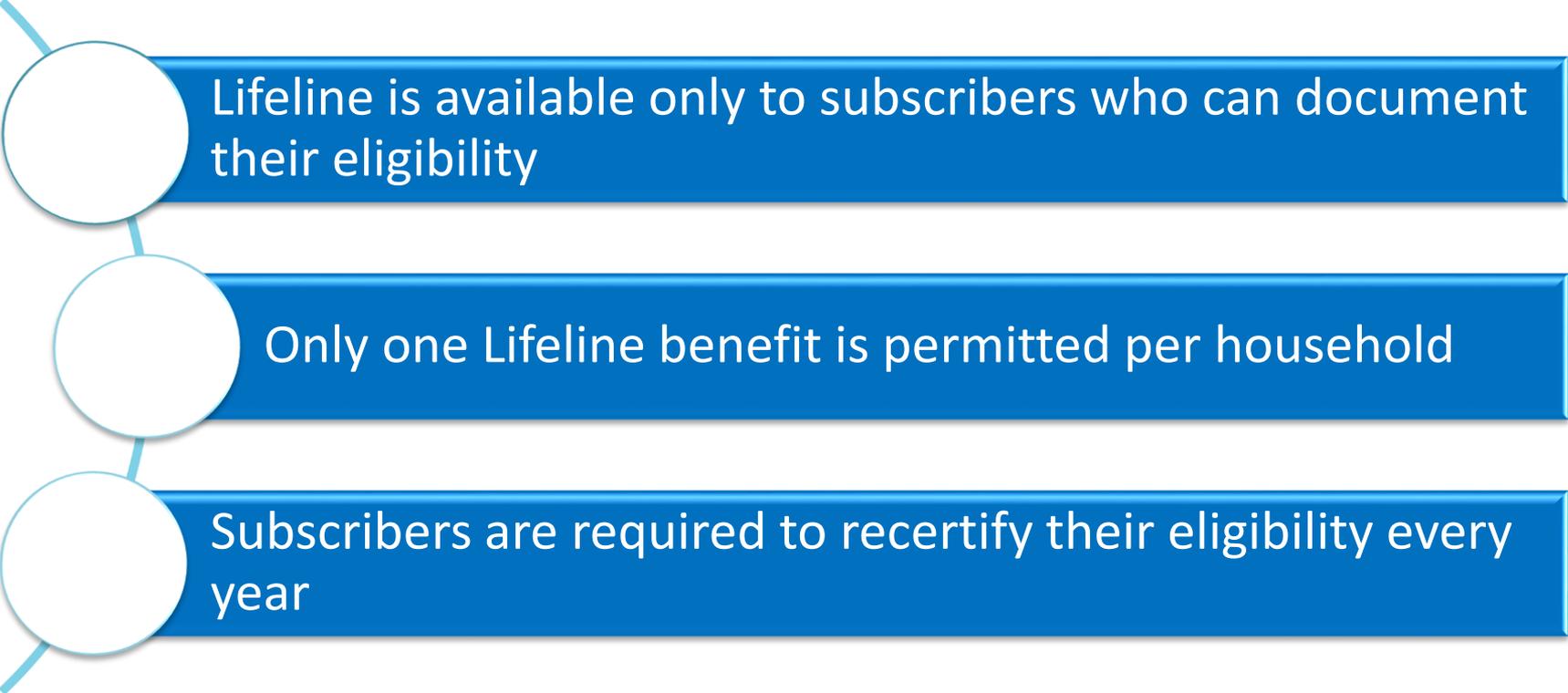
LIFELINE PROGRAM

**Provides reduced rates for
telecom services to eligible
low-income consumers**

Since 1985, the Lifeline Program has worked to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity and security that phone service brings, like being able to connect to jobs, family, and access health care and emergency services.

Lifeline is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands.

In 2015, over 13 million U.S. households participated in the Lifeline Program.



Lifeline is available only to subscribers who can document their eligibility

Only one Lifeline benefit is permitted per household

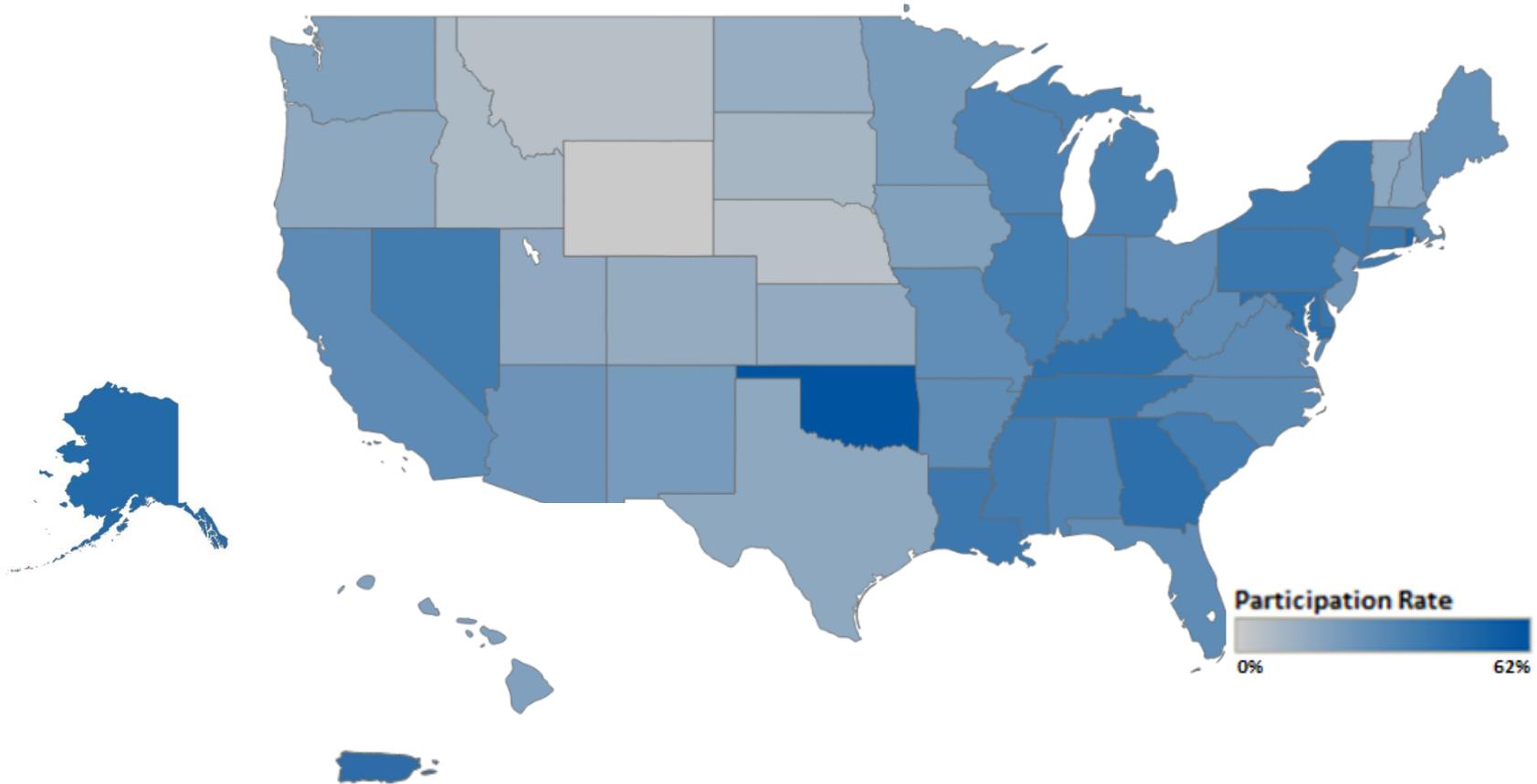
Subscribers are required to recertify their eligibility every year

These rules are in place to protect the integrity of the program and deter waste, fraud, and abuse

At a Glance:

- **Lifeline Subscribers**
 - 2Q 2016 - 13,020,092
- **Lifeline support claimed by carriers**
 - 2015 - Approximately \$1.5 Billion
- **Number of Lifeline Service Providers**
 - 2015 - 1500+

Lifeline Participation 2015

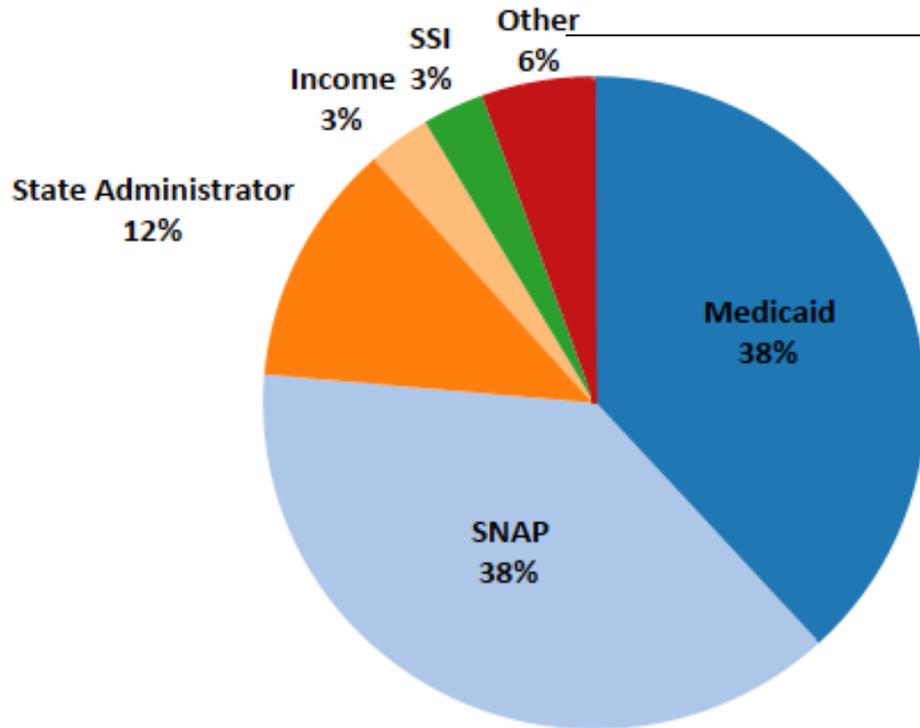


Lifeline Household Participation Rate - 33%

* Numbers derived from data in the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), U.S. Census Bureau

Lifeline Enrollment by Program

Program Breakdown



State Assistance	2.00%
LIHEAP	1.20%
TANF	1.20%
Federal Housing	0.60%
NSLP	0.30%
FDPIR	0.10%
BIAGA	0.05%
Head Start	0.01%
Tribal TANF	0.01%

Total Lifeline Subscribers 2Q16 - 13,020,092

Tribal Subscribers 1Q16 - 349,796

Questions?



Upcoming Changes to Lifeline

Inclusion of
Broadband

Streamlining
of Eligible
Programs

Creation of
a National
Eligibility
Verifier

The Lifeline Program provides a discount of \$9.25 per month to eligible subscribers, and up to \$34.25 to eligible low-income subscribers living on Tribal lands.

Subscribers may receive a discount on either:

Future State

Fixed voice (home phone)

Mobile voice (cell phone)

Fixed broadband

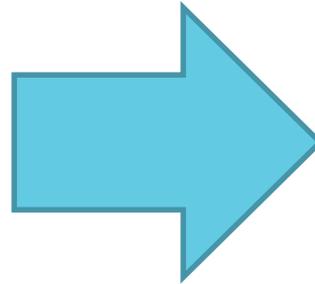
Mobile broadband

Bundled voice + broadband

Streamlining of Eligible Programs

Current State

- SNAP
- Medicaid
- SSI
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Tribal Programs
- LIHEAP
- National School Lunch Program
- State Eligibility Programs
- Income at 135% or state-set Federal Poverty Guidelines



Future State

- SNAP
- Medicaid
- SSI
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Tribal Programs
- Veterans Pension & Survivors Pension benefit
- Income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Effective December 1, 2016 for new subscribers
Existing subscribers: Rolling re-certification date

Current State: Carrier



Future State: National Verifier



National Verifier Phase-in

November 30, 2016

Draft National
Verifier Plan

**December 31,
2018**

Deployed in at
least 25 states

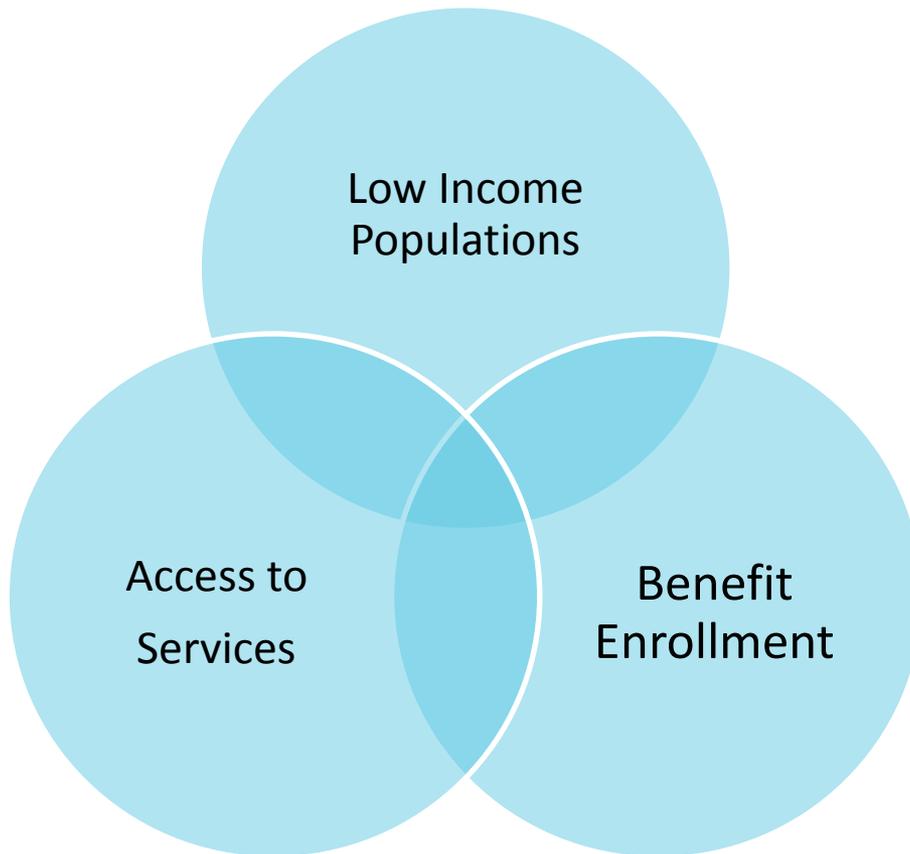
**December 31,
2017**

Deployed in at
least 5 states

**December 31,
2019**

Deployed in all
states and
territories

Commonalities



- The Lifeline Program and counties share similar goals relating to low-income and disadvantaged populations
- The Lifeline benefit keeps consumers connected to government and social service agencies
- Lifeline can be used as a tool for counties to connect with their low-income residents
- USAC looks forward to partnering with NACO to promote our common goal through:
 - Collaboration, awareness, outreach
 - Information sharing
 - Sharing of best practices

Questions?



Thank You!

- Please contact LifelineProgram@usac.org if you have additional questions about the Lifeline Program
- To sign up for emails about the Lifeline Program including news, updates, and events
 - Go to www.usac.org and click “subscribe” in the upper-right corner