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## **Minnesota Lifeline Awareness Week**

### **Can't pay your phone bill? Stay connected with telephone assistance!**

**ST PAUL, Minn.** – “Staying connected to local resources and emergency services can improve and possibly save many lives,” says Public Utilities Chair Ellen Anderson.

Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to our low-income and elderly residents. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) wants Minnesota residents to “stay connected” and is reaching out to those who need phone service but can't afford it. During “Lifeline Awareness Week,” September 11-17, the PUC will promote the Lifeline and Link Up Assistance Programs which offer discounts to help residents have access to basic local telephone service.

Under the federal Lifeline program, telephone customers who participate in or are eligible for certain assistance programs are able to receive a basic telephone service discount of approximately \$10 per month. Link-Up provides a 50% reduction in the telephone service installation charge, up to a maximum of \$30, for qualifying households that do not currently have telephone service.

To apply for benefits contact your local telephone company or your state PUC.

The PUC is the state agency in charge of regulating the rates and services of telephone companies operating in Minnesota.