

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Program (TAP)

A Refresher

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I. Introduction

The Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) is a state program that provides financial support through bill credits to eligible telephone customers. TAP has provided more than \$40.6 million of telephone assistance to Minnesota participants since the program's implementation in 1988.

II. History of TAP

In 1987, the Legislature created the TAP program to be administered jointly by the telephone companies, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and the Department of Human Services. The program was initially designed to provide monthly credits to the telephone bills of low-income customers who are also either at least 65 years old or disabled. Applications were verified by the Department of Human Services before benefits were granted to subscribers.

The program underwent significant changes since 2003. Most notable developments include a) a Minnesota law that took effect on August 1, 2003 that allowed TAP to mirror the eligibility requirements of the federal Lifeline program¹; and b) an Order by the Federal Communications Commission that expanded the eligibility for Lifeline effective July 22, 2004.² The current state TAP program supplements the federal Lifeline program and allows for increased benefits to Lifeline participants from Minnesota.

Despite a decrease in the number of access lines, from 2.8 million at the end of 2002 to about 2.2 million by June of 2010, TAP is experiencing a significant increase in participation during the same period. Resulting mainly from the change in the state eligibility criteria to match the federal Lifeline eligibility criteria, TAP participation has increased from 33,098 in 2002 to 63,529 by middle of 2010. Participation rates and other TAP-related data are available from the Commission.

In lieu of the verification work done by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, a subscriber now self-certifies his or her eligibility to the local telephone service provider. The program is now jointly administered by the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Commerce, and the local service providers.

¹ SF 1260/HF 1115 and Minn. Stat. 237.70.

² FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 04-87 released on April 29, 2004, and published in the Federal Register on June 22, 2004.

III. Related Assistance Programs

An understanding of TAP is not complete without also understanding some related programs. As earlier mentioned, TAP currently mirrors the eligibility criteria of the federal Lifeline and Link-Up programs.

At the state level, TAP, Telecommunications Access Minnesota (TAM) and 9-1-1 are all assistance programs that are paid for by all local telephone service subscribers through a combined monthly bill surcharge. Pursuant to [Minn. Stat. § 403.11, subd. 1\(c\)](#), the collections by local service providers related to the surcharges for TAP/TAM/911 are remitted to the Department of Public Safety. Forms for remitting the surcharge collections are available by at the Department of Public Safety's [911 program website](#).

The features of the related programs are:

A. The Federal Lifeline Program

Lifeline is a component of the federal universal service program designed to provide low-income individuals with monthly telephone service discounts. Currently, Lifeline provides up to approximately \$9.13 in monthly credits, composed of the following tiers: Tier 1, corresponding to the waiver of the subscriber line charge which averages about \$6.50, Tier 2 which is an additional benefit from the Telecommunications Act of 1996 of \$1.75, and Tier 3 which is capped at 50% of the TAP benefit available to subscribers from states with matching programs, now amounting to \$0.88. Additional benefits are available to subscribers living on federally-recognized reservations.

B. The Federal Link-Up Program

Link-Up is a component of the federal universal service program designed to provide low-income individuals with discounts of up to 50% on telephone service installations, not to exceed \$30.00. Additional benefits are available for low-income subscribers living on reservations.

All telecommunications carriers that provide interstate and international telephone service pay contributions into the federal universal service fund. Further information on both Lifeline and Link-Up programs are available at the [Federal Communication Commission](#) and the [Universal Service Administrative Company \(USAC\)](#).

C. The Telecommunications Access Minnesota Program (TAM)

The program was formerly known as Telecommunications for Communication-Impaired Persons (TACIP) and provides telecommunications relay service between communication-impaired persons and conventional telephone subscribers pursuant to [Minn. Stat. §§ 237.50-.56](#). TAM also distributes telecommunications equipment to qualified participants. The Department of Commerce oversees the program. Information about TAM is

available from [Minnesota Relay](#) at the MN Department of Commerce. Questions about the program may be directed to the TAM Administrator/DOC at rochelle.garrow@state.mn.us or 651-297-8941 or 1-800-657-3599.

D. The State 9-1-1 Program

9-1-1 is the statewide emergency response system and is governed by [Minn. Stat. § 403](#). The Department of Public Safety coordinates the program and sets the surcharge level. Questions related to 9-1-1 may be directed to the 9-1-1 program manager at 651-201-7550. More information can be accessed at www.911.state.mn.us.

IV. TAP Features

TAP provides monthly credits to low-income subscribers who also qualify for Lifeline. [Minn. Stat. §§ 237.69 - .711](#) govern TAP. [Minnesota Rules Chapter 7817](#) provides guidelines on the implementation of the program. The major features of TAP are:

A. Eligibility Criteria

A subscriber qualifies for TAP if he or she qualifies for Lifeline. Pursuant to the FCC Order in WC Docket No. 03-109 effective July 22, 2004, qualification is based on:

1. Income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Or,
2. Participation in one of the following federal assistance programs.
 - Medicaid/Medical Assistance;
 - Food Stamps/Food Support;
 - Supplemental Security Income;
 - Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8);
 - Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
 - National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program; or
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (also referred to in Minnesota as MFIP or the Minnesota Family Investment Program).

Subscribers living on federally-recognized reservations may also qualify if they receive benefits from one of the following programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs' General Assistance, Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and Head Start, and the National School Lunch Program's free lunch program.

Under the income eligibility, subscribers should prove that their income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines as released in the Federal Register and available online at www.aspe.hhs.gov/poverty.

The following table shows 135% of the 2010 federal poverty guidelines³:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$ 14,621
2	19,670
3	24,719
4	29,768
5	34,817
Each add'l person	5,049

Any of the following documents should be attached to the application to prove income eligibility:

- Last year's State, Federal or Tribal Tax Return
- A current annual income statement from employer
- Three *consecutive* months of most recent paycheck stubs
- Veterans Administration Benefits Statement
- Unemployment/Workers' Compensation Statement
- Social Security Benefits Statement
- Retirement/Pension Benefits Statement
- Divorce Decree
- Child Support Document
- Other

Under the program eligibility, subscribers can self-certify that they receive benefits from any of the qualifying programs listed in the application.

B. TAP Application

An application form must be completed by the subscriber for the purpose of certifying eligibility for the program.

The local service provider is required to notify each subscriber of the TAP availability pursuant to Minn. Stat. §237.70, subd. 7, and to mail each prospective applicant a TAP application form upon request. The **Minnesota Telephone Service Discount Application Form** is shown in Attachment 1.

³ Until publication of updated guidelines, the poverty guidelines for 2011 were determined to mirror the 2010 figures. The US Department of Health & Human Services expects to issue the 2011 poverty guidelines during the second half of January.

C. TAP Benefits

Minn. Stat § 237.70 requires the Commission to set the amount of monthly credit; the credit is presently at \$1.75 per month per eligible household as set in the Commission's Order dated April 11, 2001. The law provides that the TAP credit a) be up to the amount available under the federal matching plan; b) may not exceed more than 50 percent of the local exchange rate by the local telephone exchange provider; and c) may not exceed what can be funded from the surcharge collections.

The TAP credit is in addition to the Lifeline benefit.

D. Funding

The Commission is authorized to assess a monthly surcharge not to exceed ten cents per access line. The surcharge is presently set at \$0.07 per access line per month based on the Commission's April 11, 2001 Order. The surcharge is remitted by the local service providers to the Department of Public Safety in combination with the surcharges collected for the Telecommunications Access Minnesota and the 9-1-1 programs.

E. Complaint Investigation

Any complaints against local service providers related to TAP shall be investigated by the Department of Commerce and results of any investigation shall be reported to the Commission.

V. Obligations of Local Telephone Service Providers

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 237 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7817 governing the Telephone Assistance Plan program are available online at the [Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes](#).

Although federal rules only require Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) to provide Lifeline and Link Up assistance, Minnesota's state TAP program requires all local telephone companies, including competitive local exchange carriers, to provide telephone assistance to qualified customers and to remit TAP contributions for all access lines in the state. The TAP laws and Commission rules apply to each telephone company defined in Minn. Stat. § 237.01 as "any person, firm, association, or any corporation, private or municipal, owning or operating any telephone line or telephone exchange for hire, wholly or partly within this state, or furnishing any telephone service to the public."

Among the local telephone service providers' obligations related to TAP are:

A. Customer Notice

All ETCs are required to give notice of the availability of Lifeline and Link-Up and TAP programs. In addition, Minn. Stat. §237.70, subd. 7(b) requires each telephone service provider to annually mail a notice of the availability of the program to each residential subscriber. A suggested template of the **Annual Notice to Residential Customers** is shown in Attachment 2.

B. Certification and Verification

Upon a subscriber's request, the telephone service provider is required to mail the application form. For program-based eligibility, an applicant's self-certification under penalty of perjury, is deemed sufficient. For income-based eligibility, the provider must require applicants, in addition to the self-certification, to provide documentation of income eligibility at enrollment. The credits against monthly charges should be applied in the earliest possible month following receipt of the application.

The Commission also requires service providers to conform to verification procedures adopted to ensure that subscribers are eligible for benefits. Upon verification of ineligibility, a subscriber's enrollment is discontinued.

In Docket No. P999/CI-10-135, the Commission also required each local service provider audited by the FCC to submit a copy of the FCC audit report when it becomes available.

C. Surcharge Collection and Remittance

The TAP laws require local service providers to collect the TAP surcharge and to remit such collections to the Department of Public Safety for deposit in the TAP fund in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 403.11. The TAP surcharge may be combined with surcharges for 911 and TAM.

D. Recording and Reporting

The TAP statutes require telephone companies to maintain adequate records of surcharge revenues, expenses and credits related to TAP.

The statutes also require telephone companies to file either monthly or quarterly reports no later than 30 days after the end of the selected reporting period. For reporting TAP revenues and expenses for reimbursement, the Commission has devised the **TAP Reimbursement Reporting Form and Instructions** (Attachment 3). For verification of collections remitted to the Department of Public Safety, and following the procedures suggested by the Legislative Auditor, a copy of the remittance of collection to the Department of Public Safety should also

be attached to the **TAP Reimbursement Reporting Form** when eFiled.

E. Tariff Filing

A copy of the suggested tariff template is shown in Attachment 4.

F. Annual Reporting

Each local service provider is required to provide the Commission and the Department of Commerce, either as part of its annual report or separately, a financial report of its experience under the plan for the previous year. The report shall be adequate to satisfy any reporting requirements of the federal matching fund.

VI. Electronic Copy and Contact Information

Telephone Assistance Plan program forms and reimbursement process inquiries may be directed to Commission staff, Lillian Brion, at lillian.brion@state.mn.us or 651-201-2216.

Telecommunications Access Minnesota program information and compliance forms are available from the Department of Commerce's website at www.commerce.state.mn.us (*Click on Minnesota Relay, then "Telecommunications Carriers."*). TAM program inquiries may be directed to Commerce staff, Rochelle Garrow, at rochelle.garrow@state.mn.us or 651-297-8941.

9-1-1- Program forms and reimbursement process inquiries may be directed to Department of Public Safety staff, Jackie Mines, at jackie.mines@state.mn.us or 651-201-7550.

Consumers with eligibility inquiries may contact the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Consumer Affairs Office at consumer.puc@state.mn.us or 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782.

Minnesota Telephone Service Discount Application

Attachment 1

Use this application to apply for Link-Up, Lifeline & TAP

(Please Print)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State: MN Zip _____

Check Box that best describes where you live: I live on a reservation I do not live on a reservation

Tel. # if you have service (MUST be in your name) Tel. # where you can be reached:

(_____) - _____ (_____) - _____

Area code + seven digit number

area code + seven digit number

Telephone Company _____ No. of people living in your household _____

1. I receive benefits from the following program(s): *Check all that apply*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid/Medical Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Support (food stamps) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Public Housing or Section 8 Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National School Free Lunch Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribally Administered Head Start (for those meeting income qualifying standard) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tribally administered Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) | |

2. I do not receive benefits from any of the programs listed above BUT my income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guideline. *Please attach one of the documents below if you did not check any boxes in #1.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last year's State, Federal or Tribal Tax Return | <input type="checkbox"/> Current annual income statement from employer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 consecutive months of most recent paycheck stub | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Benefits Statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Administration Benefits Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement/Pension Benefits Statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce Decree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Support document | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

I agree to notify the telephone company when I no longer participate in any of the above qualifying programs or my income rises above 135% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet one of the criteria above to receive telephone service discounts on my home telephone line.

Applicant Signature

Social Security Number

Date

I am an "Authorized Representative" for this applicant and am submitting this form on behalf of this customer. I am willing to assist this applicant in seeking telephone service discounts.

Print "authorized representative" Name

(_____) _____
Daytime Phone Number

Date

Complete Application ♦ ♦ Attach Proof of Income Documents
Mail Application & Income Documents to Your Local Telephone Company

Sample Customer Notice to Residential Customers

You may be eligible for installation and monthly discounts on your telephone bill under the federally-funded Link-Up and Lifeline telephone discount programs if you receive benefits under one or more of the following programs:

- Medicaid/Medical Assistance (MA)
- Food Stamps/Food Support
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (also referred to in Minnesota as MFIP or the Minnesota Family Investment Program)

If you live on a federally-recognized reservation, you may also qualify for these discounts if you receive benefits from one of the following programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (only for those meeting the income qualifying standard)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

If you do not participate in any of the above programs, you may also qualify if your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines listed below:

Household Size	Income
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Each add'l person	

If you qualify, the Link-Up program provides a 50% discount up to \$30, on installation charges. You can receive a monthly credit of \$ (insert amount) (depends on the company's SLC charge + \$1.75 + \$0.88) under the Lifeline program and \$1.75 under the Minnesota Telephone Assistance Plan. You may also receive free long-distance call blocking and additional benefits apply if you live on federally-recognized tribal lands. The credits apply to your main home telephone line.

For more information and an application, please call (insert telephone company contact information).

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**Instructions for Filing Telephone Assistance Plan Form as of January 3, 2011.*****Purpose of TAP Form***

Minnesota Rules 7817.0900 requires all local service providers to maintain adequate records of surcharge revenues, expenses, and credits related to the telephone assistance plan, and to report that information on a Commission-prescribed TAP form. The purpose of the TAP form is to track the revenues and expenses of the TAP program. All carriers with a local certificate must complete and eFile the TAP form verifying that they are either paying into the

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=7817.0900>

Due Date

Complete and eFile the TAP reporting form no later than 30 calendar days after the end of the reporting period which may be either monthly, quarterly, or in some cases, annually. See Section 2: Reporting Period for detailed reporting period information.

Completing the Form

Enter numeric responses in all applicable yellow highlighted fields. Do not enter letters or symbols in the yellow fields. Enter "0" in any field that does not apply. Do Not enter "N/A" or any other words of explanation *unless* you are filing Trade Secret data in Section 4. Rose-colored fields will auto-calculate and display the sum of the numbers you report. Do not enter any responses in the rose-colored fields.

Specific Sections of the Form Details***Section 1: Company Information***

Enter full company name. Do NOT abbreviate. Enter 5-digit numeric U-Number. Do not enter the letter "U"; enter only the 5-digits after the U. The Company name and U-number shall be as reported in the Jurisdictional Annual Report filed May 1 each year. Enter contact name, email address and 10-digit telephone number including area code of the person completing this form. This person will be contacted for any clarification or questions.

[Find my U-Number](#)

Section 2: Reporting Period

A local service provider with more than 100 subscribers shall elect to file either monthly or quarterly reports. A local service provider with 100 or fewer subscribers may elect to file annually only. Select the period for which you are filing this report. All filings are due 30 calendar days after the end of the reporting period your company has chosen.

Section 3: Type of Company

Identify whether you are reporting for an ILEC, CLEC – ETC or CLEC - NonETC. Definitions are found in Minnesota Rules part 7812.0100.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=7812.0100>

Section 4: Surcharge Collections

If you have no access lines subject to Minnesota TAP Rules, check the box at the top of Section 4 and skip to Section 11.

4a: Enter number of local access lines at the end of the reporting period. The number in 4a must equal the number of wired lines reported to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety on the 911 Program Remittance form. Include inward and outward bound trunks equivalents for T1/DS1, Partial T1, DS3, ISDN basic & ISDN primary rate interface, Blocked and Unblocked Centrex among others. Please see the Commission's February 20, 2009 Order assessing surcharges in Docket No. 07-617 to determine the number of lines you should report. Questions may be directed to Lillian Brion (Lillian.Brion@state.mn.us), 651-201-2216.

[Trade Secret Qualifications
February 2009 Commission Order](#)

4b: Enter dollar amount of TAP surcharge fees collected on all lines reported in 4a. This should equal 4a multiplied by the \$.07 per line TAP surcharge.

4c: Enter dollar amount of TAP surcharges deposited with the 911 Program. Attach a copy of the 911 remittance form submitted to the Department of Public Safety. If you have multiple remittance forms, please paste one form each into Tabs 911-1, 911-2 and 911-3. **Paste either an Excel worksheet or a PDF document format.** Do NOT eFile as separate

4d: Explain any difference between 4b and 4c.

Section 5: TAP Subscriber Credit (reimbursed at \$1.75 per TAP subscriber line)

5a: Enter total number of TAP subscribers for this reporting period. For example, if you are filing a quarterly report and you had 200 subscribers in the first month of the quarter, 205 in the second month, and 210 in the third month, you would enter 615 in line 5a.

5b: Enter total number of Resold lines for which you already received TAP credit from your underlying carrier(s). For example, if you had 100 total TAP subscribers, but 25 of those TAP subscribers are provided service through resale and your underlying carrier already provided you with the TAP credit, enter "100" in line 5a and "25" in line 5b. Providing the information in both lines will ensure the Commission can: 1) accurately count the total number of TAP subscribers you have; and 2) make sure it is not reimbursing you for TAP credits that you already received from your underlying carrier.

Section 6: TAP Subscriber Credit (reimbursed at less than \$1.75 per TAP subscriber line)

Complete this section for all TAP subscribers credits issued at less than \$1.75 for this reporting period.

If you provided less than a \$1.75 credit to any TAP subscribers, enter an "X" in the box in Section 6 and complete Section 12: TAP Subscriber Credit (reimbursed at less than \$1.75 credit).

Section 7: Administrative Charges

Minnesota Rules 7817.0300, subpart 4, allows a telephone company to claim reimbursement of administrative expenses for enrolling TAP participants. Reimbursement for a carrier's expenses of collecting the surcharge is not allowed.

A local service provider with five or more new TAP participants enrolled during the reporting period for which reimbursement is sought may seek reimbursement for expenses actually incurred and claimed up to an amount no greater than the number of NEW participants enrolled during the reporting period times either the provider's tariffed service order record change charge or the Commission-established TAP enrollment charge.

A local service provider with fewer than five new TAP participants enrolled during the reporting period for which reimbursement is sought may seek reimbursement for expenses actually incurred and claimed up to an amount no

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules?id=7817.0300>

7a: Enter your company's tariffed service order charge or PUC-approved TAP enrollment charge.

7b: Enter the number of new TAP subscribers added during the reporting period. If less than 5, enter 5.

7c: This field will automatically calculate and enter the result of line 7a x 7b.

7d: Enter actual administrative expenses claimed.

7e: Field will auto calculate and enter the lesser of line 7c or 7d. This is your administrative expenses reimbursement

Section 8: Total Reimbursement Requested

This amount is automatically calculated for you. This amount includes amounts under Section 5 for the credits you provided to eligible residential households, amounts under Section 7 for administrative charges, amounts under Section 12 for carriers providing less than \$1.75 TAP credit and amounts under Section 13 if you provided TAP credits to

Section 9: Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Lifeline Credit

Minnesota Rules 7817.0900, subp. 3 requires all ETCs to provide the information in 9a & 9b. You must complete this section of the form if you are an ETC. If you are not an ETC, enter "0" in 9a and 9b.

9a: Enter dollar amount of Lifeline reimbursement (reported on FCC Form 497) from the federal matching plan applied for or received during this reporting period.

9b: Enter dollar amount of Lifeline credit per individual subscriber. See FCC Rule Section 54.403 for the requirement on Lifeline support amount.

Section 10: Resold Residential Lines with TAP credit

If you provide TAP credits to resellers, place an "X" in the box in Section 10 and complete Section 13.

Section 11: Certification

Enter the name and title of the person that is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the TAP data provided. This may or may not be the Contact Name provided in Section 1. Enter the date (mm/dd/yyyy), electronically sign and efile the form along with the corresponding 911 Program remittance form to

[\(MN eFiling home page link\)](#)

Section 12: TAP Subscriber Credit (reimbursed at less than \$1.75 per TAP subscriber line)

Carriers providing less than \$1.75 credit to TAP subscribers must report the TAP credit per line, number of TAP subscriber lines during this reporting period and an explanation of why the TAP credit is less than \$1.75. The total credit amount to be reimbursed will be automatically calculated for you.

12a: Enter dollar amount of TAP: credit per line

12b: Enter number of TAP subscribers receiving less than \$1.75 credit

12c: Skip this field. The amount will be automatically calculate and enter total of 12a minus 12b into this field

12d: Explain why the TAP credit was less than \$1.75 per TAP subscriber.

Section 13: Resold Residential TAP Lines

If you placed an "X" in the box in Section 10, you must fill out Section 13: Resold Residential TAP Lines. For resold lines receiving credit, list the reseller carrier's name, U-number (number only), number of resold lines receiving credit and the credit amount provided to the reseller during this reporting period. For example, if you are filing a quarterly report and you had 20 resold lines receiving TAP credit in the first month that quarter, 25 in the second month and 26 in the third month, you would enter 71 resold lines receiving credit from the reseller.

[Look up Carrier U-Number](#)

Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP)

1. General

TAP is a state sponsored assistance program under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 237 and is designed to make telephone service accessible to qualifying low-income residential households. Through this program, eligible households will receive a monthly discount on their telephone service.

2. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1.1 This discount applies on a single line at the principal place of residence for the applicant.

1.2 Applicant signs document certifying under penalty of perjury that the consumer has income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or receives benefits from at least one of the following programs:

- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Food Support/Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income
- Federal Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (also known as Minnesota Family Investment Program, or MFIP)

Subscribers living on federally-recognized reservations may qualify if the applicant signs a document certifying under penalty of perjury that the applicant receives benefits from at least one of the following programs:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Head Start (only for those meeting its income qualifying standard)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

1.3 Applicant agrees to notify the carrier if that consumer ceases to participate in any of the above listed federal assistance programs.

3. Eligibility Revocation

If the Telephone Company discovers that conditions exist that disqualify the recipient of TAP, the support will be discontinued. The customer will be billed retroactively to whichever is the most recent of the dates TAP assistance commenced or the recipient no longer qualified for the service not to exceed 12 months.

4. State TAP Monthly Surcharge

\$.07