

For Immediate Release

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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

State Utility Regulators Join NARUC and the FCC in Observing National Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week

WASHINGTON (September 14, 2026) — Each September, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, the Federal Communications Commission and state public utility commissions observe National Digital Connectivity and Lifeline Awareness Week. Since 2008, the week after Labor Day is designated to create greater awareness of the benefits of the federal Lifeline Program.

Lifeline is an affordable, inclusive program for low-income consumers, offering a way to connect with the nation's voice and broadband networks, secure employment opportunities, access essential healthcare services, stay connected with family and seek assistance during emergencies. The ability to stay connected holds the power to bridge the gap between social inclusion and isolation.

“Affordability is increasingly an issue for many Americans, and the Lifeline Program helps fill a vital economic gap for those most in need,” said Commissioner Mary Pat Regan of the Kentucky Public Service Commission and chair of the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications. “For eligible participants, Lifeline provides the only opportunity to be fully engaged in society by accessing phone and digital communications.”

The NARUC Board of Directors has consistently supported Lifeline by passing resolutions to expand Lifeline week to include broadband services and to fund the former Affordable Connectivity Program.

The federal Lifeline Program provides substantial assistance to eligible low-income consumers who are either participants in specified public assistance programs or meet specific income criteria. These consumers can benefit from discounts of up to \$9.25 per month for broadband-qualifying services, up to \$5.25 per month for voice-qualifying services and up to \$34.25 per month for residents residing on Tribal lands. An additional \$25 discount is also available for low-income subscribers residing on Tribal lands. The program's eligibility and regulations can be accessed at <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>. A dedicated American Sign Language video describing the Lifeline program is available at <https://youtu.be/wwkjVrd5xHc>.

NARUC has several resources on its [Lifeline web page](#), which includes a toolkit and other resources, along with a video, [Welcome to Lifeline: It's a Life Changer](#).

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About NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of state public utility commissions before the three branches of the federal government.