

upon consultation with the tribal governing body of those reservations, as locales appropriate for the extension of financial assistance and/or social services, on the basis of such general criteria as: Number of Indian people native to the reservation residing in the area; a written designation by the tribal governing body that members of their tribe and family members who are Indian residing in the area, are socially, culturally and economically affiliated with their tribe and reservation; geographical proximity of the area to the reservation, and administrative feasibility of providing an adequate level of services to the area.

NOTE TO PARAGRAPH (e): The Commission stayed implementation of paragraph (e) as applied to qualifying low-income consumers living “near reservations” on August 31, 2000 (15 FCC Rcd 17112).

(f) *Income*. “Income” is all income actually received by all members of the household. This includes salary before deductions for taxes, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran’s benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker’s compensation benefits, gifts, lottery winnings, and the like. The only exceptions are student financial aid, military housing and cost-of-living allowances, irregular income from occasional small jobs such as baby-sitting or lawn mowing, and the like.

[62 FR 32952, June 17, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 2128, Jan. 13, 1998; 65 FR 47905, Aug. 4, 2000; 65 FR 58663, Oct. 2, 2000; 68 FR 41941, July 16, 2003; 69 FR 34600, June 22, 2004]

§ 54.401 Lifeline defined.

(a) As used in this subpart, *Lifeline* means a retail local service offering:

(1) That is available only to qualifying low-income consumers, and no qualifying consumer is permitted to receive more than one Lifeline subsidy concurrently.

(2) For which qualifying low-income consumers pay reduced charges as a result of application of the Lifeline support amount described in § 54.403; and

(3) That includes the services or functionalities enumerated in § 54.101 (a)(1) through (a)(9). The carriers shall offer toll limitation to all qualifying low-income consumers at the time such

consumers subscribe to Lifeline service. If the consumer elects to receive toll limitation, that service shall become part of that consumer’s Lifeline service.

(b) [Reserved]

(c) Eligible telecommunications carriers may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline service, if the qualifying low-income consumer voluntarily elects toll limitation service from the carrier, where available. If toll limitation services are unavailable, the carrier may charge a service deposit.

(d) The state commission shall file or require the eligible telecommunications carrier to file information with the Administrator demonstrating that the carrier’s Lifeline plan meets the criteria set forth in this subpart and stating the number of qualifying low-income consumers and the amount of state assistance. Eligible telecommunications carriers not subject to state commission jurisdiction also shall make such a filing with the Administrator. Lifeline assistance shall be made available to qualifying low-income consumers as soon as the Administrator certifies that the carrier’s Lifeline plan satisfies the criteria set out in this subpart.

(e) Consistent with § 52.33(a)(1)(i)(C), eligible telecommunications carriers may not charge Lifeline customers a monthly number-portability charge.

[62 FR 32948, June 17, 1997, as amended at 63 FR 2128, Jan. 13, 1998; 64 FR 60358, Nov. 5, 1999; 65 FR 47905, Aug. 4, 2000; 69 FR 34600, June 22, 2004; 76 FR 38046, June 29, 2011]

§ 54.403 Lifeline support amount.

(a) The Federal Lifeline support amount for all eligible telecommunications carriers shall equal:

(1) *Tier One*. The tariffed rate in effect for the primary residential End User Common Line charge of the incumbent local exchange carrier serving the area in which the qualifying low-income consumer receives service, as determined in accordance with § 69.104 or §§ 69.152(d)(1) and 69.152(q) of this chapter, whichever is applicable;

(2) *Tier Two*. Additional federal Lifeline support in the amount of \$1.75 per