June 25, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554


Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Benton Ridge Telephone Company ("Benton Ridge"), please find enclosed two copies of Benton Ridge's FCC Form 481, along with the redacted versions of the Confidential Financial Information.

Also enclosed are copies of Benton Ridge's redacted progress reports on its five-year service quality improvement plan.

One copy of the FCC Form 481, containing Confidential Financial Information is being filed under separate cover.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (402) 441-4315 if you have any questions regarding this submission.
Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Meyer  
Consultant  
Consortia Consulting, Inc.

Encl.
### Study Area Code
- Code: 300S90

### Study Area Name
- Name: BRYTON RIDGE TEL CO

### Program Year
- Year: 2016

### Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data
- Martin L. Killbrock

### Contact Telephone Number:
- Number: 4198592144 ext.

### Contact Email Address:
- Email: martinswatchtv.net

### Service Quality Improvement Reporting
- (check box when complete)

### Outage Reporting (voice)
- (complete attached worksheet)

### Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice)
- (check box if no outages to report)

### Detail on Attempts (voice)
- (attach descriptive document)

### Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband)
- (check box when complete)

### Detail on Attempts (broadband)
- (attach descriptive document)

### Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)
- Fixed: 0.0
- Mobile: 0.0

### Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)
- Fixed: 0.0
- Mobile: 0.0

### Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance
- (check to indicate certification)

### Functionality in Emergency Situations
- (check to indicate certification)

### Company Price Offerings (voice)
- (complete attached worksheet)

### Company Price Offerings (broadband)
- (complete attached worksheet)

### Operating Companies and Affiliates
- (complete attached worksheet)

### Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?
- Yes

### Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification
- (check to indicate certification)

### Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)
- Yes

### Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers
- (complete attached worksheet)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Area Code</th>
<th>300590</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Area Name</td>
<td>SANTOS RIDE TEL CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Year</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</td>
<td>Martin L. Ellerbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line</td>
<td>4198593144 ext.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin@watchtv.net">martin@watchtv.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC? **Yes**
- If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5 year plan" filed with the FCC? **No**

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets: **Yes**
- Report how much universal service (USF) support was received: **Yes**
- How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality: **Yes**
- How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage: **Yes**
- How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity: **Yes**
- Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year: **Not Applicable**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORS Reference Number</th>
<th>Outage Start Date</th>
<th>Outage Start Time</th>
<th>Outage End Date</th>
<th>Outage End Time</th>
<th>Number of Customers Affected</th>
<th>Total Number of Customers Affected</th>
<th>911 Facilities Affected (Yes / No)</th>
<th>Service Outage Description (Check all that apply)</th>
<th>Did This Outage Affect Multiple Study Areas (Yes / No)</th>
<th>Service Outage Resolution</th>
<th>Preventative Procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- **Study Area Code**: 300590
- **Area Name**: BENTON RIDGE TEL CO
- **Program Year**: 2016
- **Contact Name**: Martin L. Ellbrock
- **Telephone Number**: 419-859-2144 ext.
- **Email Address**: martin@weatchtv.net
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Area Code</th>
<th>Study Area Name</th>
<th>Program Year</th>
<th>Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</th>
<th>Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line</th>
<th>Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300590</td>
<td>HUNTING RIDGE TEL CO</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Martin L. Willerbrook</td>
<td>6198521144 ext.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin@watchtv.net">martin@watchtv.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date: 1/1/2015
Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge: 17.55

--- See attached worksheet ---
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Exchange (ILEC)</th>
<th>Residential Rate</th>
<th>State Regulated Fees</th>
<th>Total Rate and Fees</th>
<th>Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)</th>
<th>Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)</th>
<th>Usage Allowance (GB)</th>
<th>Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached (select)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

See attached worksheet.
| Study Area Code | 300990 |
| Study Area Name | BENTON RIDGE TEL CO |
| Program Year | 2016 |
| Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data | Martin L. Blackrock |
| Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line | 419-852-1144 ext. |
| Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line | martinblackr.net |

**Reporting Carrier**: Benton Ridge Telephone Company

**Holding Company**: Not Applicable

**Operating Company**: Benton Ridge Telephone Company

---

### Affiliates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAC</th>
<th>Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

-- See attached worksheet --
<010> Study Area Code 300590
<015> Study Area Name BENTON RIDGE TEL. CO
<020> Program Year 2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Martin L. Ellerbrock
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4198921144 ext. 
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> martin@watchtv.net

<Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves>

<Tribal Government Engagement Obligation>
If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(c)(9) includes:

/<921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
/<922> Feasibility and sustainability planning; 
/<923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner; 
/<924> Compliance with Rights of way processes 
/<925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements 
/<926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules 
/<927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes 
/<928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes 
/<929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Name of Attached Document

Select
Yes or No or Not Applicable
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&lt;010&gt; Study Area Code</th>
<th>300590</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;015&gt; Study Area Name</td>
<td>RENTON RIDGE TEL CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;020&gt; Program Year</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;030&gt; Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</td>
<td>Martin E. Klaesbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;035&gt; Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</td>
<td>4198892144 ext.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;039&gt; Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line &lt;030&gt;</td>
<td>martinewatchtv.net</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**<1120>** Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

**<1130>** Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Area Code</th>
<th>300500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Area Name</td>
<td>BRITON RIDGE TEL CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Year</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Name</td>
<td>Martin L. Ellerbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Telephone Number</td>
<td>4199592146 ext.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin@wetv.net">martin@wetv.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms &amp; Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans</td>
<td>300500eh1210.pdf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link to Public Website</td>
<td>HTTP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- [ ] Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,
- [ ] Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,
- [ ] Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.
Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Certification Type</th>
<th>Document Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2nd Year Certification</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(b)(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011a</td>
<td>3rd Year Certification</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(b)(ii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011b</td>
<td>Attachment</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(b)(i)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Support Calculation</th>
<th>Document Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2013 Frozen Support Calculation</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(c)(i)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2014 Frozen Support Calculation</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(c)(ii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015 Frozen Support Calculation</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(c)(iii)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(c)(iv)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Certification Support Used to Build Broadband</th>
<th>Document Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Certification Support</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(d)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Service Certification</th>
<th>Document Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3rd year Service Certification</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>5th year Service Certification</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Interim Progress Certification</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Interim Progress</td>
<td>47 CFR § 54.313(e)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions

Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information
Please check the boxes below to complete the data portions of this form. Provide sufficient information. See instructions on page 2.

If the response is no on the 2014, 2015, or 2016 line, please check the boxes below to indicate if your company's annual report contains the required information.

If the response is yes on the 2014, 2015, or 2016 line, please check the boxes below to indicate if the annual report contains the required information.

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If the response is yes on the 2014, 2015, or 2016 line, please check the boxes below to indicate if the annual report contains the required information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Area Code</th>
<th>300590</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Area Name</td>
<td>BERCHEMBERG, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Year</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</td>
<td>Martin P. Ritterbrock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data for &lt;030&gt;</td>
<td>928-323-344 ext.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data for &lt;030&gt;</td>
<td>martinswatcher.net</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Financial Data Summary**

| (3027) Revenue | [Redacted] |
| (3028) Operating Expenses | [Redacted] |
| (3029) Net Income | [Redacted] |
| (3030) Telephone Plant In Service (TPIS) | [Redacted] |
| (3031) Total Assets | [Redacted] |
| (3032) Total Debt | [Redacted] |
| (3033) Total Equity | [Redacted] |
| (3034) Dividends | [Redacted] |
Certification of Reporting Carrier:
Data Collection Form

<01D> Study Area Code: 300590
<015> Study Area Name: BENTON RIDGE TEL CO
<02D> Program Year: 2016
<03D> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data: Martin L. Ellerbrock
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <03D>: 4198592144 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <03D>: martine@watchtv.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients

I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.

Name of Reporting Carrier: BENTON RIDGE TEL CO
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/22/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer: Martin Ellerbrock
Title or position of Authorized Officer: Corporate Secretary
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 4198592144 ext.

Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 300590 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Area Code</td>
<td>300590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Area Name</td>
<td>BRIDGW TEL CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Year</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</td>
<td>Martin L. Ellenbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line</td>
<td>4198592144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin@watchty.net">martin@watchty.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:**

**Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier**

I certify that (Name of Agent) is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.

Name of Authorized Agent:
Name of Reporting Carrier:
Signature of Authorized Officer:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:
Title or position of Authorized Officer:
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:
Filing Due Date for this form:

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:**

**Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier**

I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.

Name of Reporting Carrier:
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:
Filing Due Date for this form:

Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.
Attachments
Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Compliance

BENTON RIDGE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Service quality standards and consumer protection rules for broadband are not as defined as the rules for voice services. The Company complies with any current service quality standards and consumer protection rules for broadband and will comply with any that will be defined in the future.

Service Quality Standards

For voice services, the Company:

- Provides voice grade access to the public switched network.
- Provides flat rated local exchange service with no additional charge to end users.
- Provides access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911.
- Provides toll blocking and toll limitation services.

For voice and broadband services, the Company:

- Advertises the availability of its services and the charges using media of general distribution and/or on its website.
- Maintains a business office providing customers with access to a customer service representative either in person or via a local telephone call or toll-free telephone number during business hours.
- Directs after hour calls to the Company’s help desk.
- Directs trouble reports to the on-call technician.
- Tracks all service orders to ensure they are completed in a timely manner.
- Measures its service connection and service interruption performance on a regular basis.
- Trains employees to:
  - Answer all incoming calls promptly.
  - Respond to all inquiries for information promptly and courteously.
  - Investigate thoroughly all customer complaints and handle appropriately according to the Company’s guidelines for resolution of customer complaints.
  - Be knowledgeable about products and service offerings so they can assist the customer with selecting the best service option.
- Has a process for periodic inspection, testing and preventive maintenance of its equipment to permit the rendering of safe, adequate and continuous service at all times.
- Meets or exceeds the standards established by the state commission and provides any reports required in accordance with the state commission’s rules.
Consumer Protection Rules

The Company has established operating procedures designed to facilitate compliance with applicable consumer protection rules which include compliance with the Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) rules. The operating procedures include:

- Appointment of a compliance officer.
- A manual detailing the specific procedures for protecting consumer information.
- Employee training on an annual basis.
- A disciplinary process for improper use of consumer information.

If complaints are filed with the Company regarding consumer protection rules, the complaint is immediately investigated, the matter tracked and any corrective action noted. This process ensures that problems are addressed and corrections made.
Benton Ridge Telephone Company ("the Company") has the ability to remain functional in emergency situations.

The Company has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source. The battery systems at the switching and remote offices will provide forty-eight hours of back-up power. In addition, fixed propane generators will recharge the battery systems indefinitely. The rural nodes have eight-hour battery back-up, and three portable gasoline generators are used to recharge the nodes' batteries. Customers with fiber-to-the-home service also have batteries installed in their homes, which provide four-hour back-up.

Interexchange traffic is carried on a fiber ring. Traffic is automatically rerouted around damaged facilities.

The Company serves less than 3,000 voice and internet customers, and there is adequate switching and transport capacity to allow the Company to manage traffic spikes due to emergency situations.
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<th>Study Area Code</th>
<th>Study Area Name</th>
<th>Program Year</th>
<th>Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data</th>
<th>Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line</th>
<th>Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line</th>
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<td>300590</td>
<td>SIMPSON RIDGE TEL CO</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Martin L. Ellersbrook</td>
<td>4198592164 ext.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin@watchy.net">martin@watchy.net</a></td>
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<th>State Subscriber Line Charge</th>
<th>State Universal Service Fee</th>
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<td>Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)</td>
<td>Usage Allowance (GB)</td>
<td>Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached (select)</td>
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Benton Ridge Telephone Company ("Benton Ridge") offers Lifeline program-supported service to qualified low-income residential consumers for one telephone line per eligible household. The Lifeline program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive $9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline. Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

**Lifeline Program Eligibility Information**

**Program Based Eligibility**

Consumers are eligible for Lifeline if they, one of their dependents, or their household participate in one of the following qualifying assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps)
- Ohio Works First/Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program Free Lunch Program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- SSI – Blind and Disabled (SSDI)
- General/Disability Assistance

Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Acceptable documentation of program-based eligibility includes: current or prior year's statement of benefits from a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; notice letter of participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program; program participation documents; or another official document evidencing the consumer's participation in a qualifying state, federal or Tribal program.

**Income Based Eligibility**

In addition, consumers are eligible for Lifeline if their household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines.
Acceptable documentation of income eligibility includes: prior year’s state, federal or Tribal tax return; current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub; social security statement of benefits; Veterans Administration statement of benefits; retirement/pension statement of benefits; unemployment/workmen’s compensation statement of benefits; federal or Tribal notice of letter participating in General Assistance; or a divorce decree or child support award or other official document containing income information.

**Numbers of Minutes-of-Use Provided as Part of Lifeline Program Service**

Benton Ridge’s Voice Lifeline service includes unlimited local minutes-of-use within the toll-free calling area. Benton Ridge’s Voice Lifeline Plan does not include any free minutes-of-use for toll. Toll is billed at the standard toll rate depending on which interexchange carrier the consumer subscribes to for toll service. As part of the Lifeline service, Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost.

**Rates**

Subscribers may receive the Lifeline credit on any type or grade of local service, including bundled services that are normally offered by Benton Ridge. Advertised rates do not include any applicable taxes or surcharges.

**Recertification of Lifeline Eligibility**

Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility annually. Failure to properly recertify a recipient’s continued eligibility for the Lifeline program will result in termination of the Lifeline recipient’s monthly Lifeline discount and de-enrollment from the Lifeline Program.

**Additional Lifeline Program Information**

The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.