

Paul Suskie
Chairman
(501) 682-1451

Colette D. Honorable
Commissioner
(501) 682-1455

Olan W. Reeves
Commissioner
(501) 682-1453

**ARKANSAS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
1000 Center
P.O. Box 400
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0400
<http://www.Arkansas.gov/psc>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 14, 2009

**Arkansas Public Service Commission Announces National
Lifeline Awareness Week in Arkansas**

(Little Rock)- Governor Mike Beebe proclaims September 14-20, 2009 as National Lifeline Awareness Week in Arkansas to heighten awareness and educate Arkansans about the discount telephone program available to eligible households.

Staying connected to local resources and emergency services can improve and possibly save many lives, say state regulators. Governor Mike Beebe has declared September 14-20, 2009 as "National Lifeline Awareness Week" in Arkansas.

"Access to local emergency services and community resources is vital to our low-income and elderly residents," said Paul Suskie, Chairman of the Arkansas Public Service Commission. "The Arkansas Public Service Commission wants residents to 'stay connected' and is reaching out to those who need phone service but can't afford it." During "Lifeline Awareness Week," September 14-20, the Arkansas Public Service Commission 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 public assistance programs are entitled to receive a basic telephone service discount of at least \$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. For more information, you may also call the Consumer Services Division of the Arkansas Public Service Commission at (800) 482-1164.

The Arkansas Public Service Commission is the state agency in charge of regulating the quality of service of landline telephone companies operating in Arkansas.

Contact: Paul Suskie at (501) 682-5809
Email: psuskie@psc.state.ar.us

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In today's highly interconnected world, telephones provide a lifeline to emergency help and a vital link to government services, community resources, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS: Not everyone can afford the cost of a home telephone, and there are households in our Nation that still have no telephone service in their homes; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Arkansas Public Service Commission have joined in a collaborative effort to make telephone service more affordable for the Nation's low-income consumers by providing a discount on the connection fee and monthly charges for local telephone service; and

WHEREAS: Link-Up America (Link-Up) provides a generous discount to consumers for the installation of telephone service in their homes and Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) provides a discount to eligible low-income customers on their monthly phone bills, making basic telephone service more affordable; and

WHEREAS: The FCC has established Enhanced Link-Up and Lifeline programs for Tribal Lands; and

WHEREAS: Consumers should not have to go without local phone service because they cannot afford it, and therefore the promotion of Link-Up and Lifeline is imperative for ensuring that all U.S. citizens have access to affordable, basic, local telephone service; and

WHEREAS: The FCC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), other state and federal agencies, cities, counties, organizations, and telecommunications companies are committed to increasing awareness about the availability of the Link-Up and Lifeline programs and are encouraging eligible citizens to sign up for the programs; and

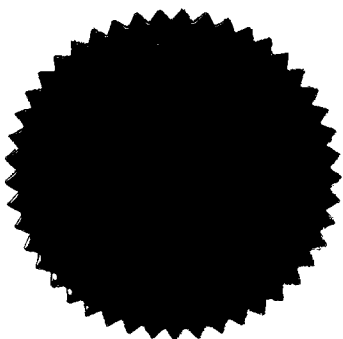
WHEREAS: The FCC, NARUC, and NASUCA have joined together to design and implement a comprehensive outreach plan to promote Link-Up and Lifeline subscribership;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 14 through 20, 2009, as

NATIONAL LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I call upon government agencies, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to educate residents about state and federal programs for telephone connectivity during National Lifeline Awareness Week and to further initiate and promote outreach events during this special week.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of September in the year of our Lord 2009.





MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR



CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE