

FREE OR REDUCED PRICE CELL PHONES

Lifeline is a program to assist eligible consumers with purchasing landline telephone or cellphone service at a reduced cost. The program is jointly administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC).

If the member, aide, or attendant qualifies for the Lifeline program, the phones may be used to supply the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) initiative. EVV is a system that electronically records when and where an aide/attendant provides certain services to a Medicaid member.

There are several telephone or wireless companies that participate in Lifeline. If you are covered by a Virginia Medicaid Managed Care Organization such as Aetna, Anthem, Magellan, OptimaHealth, United Healthcare, or Virginia Premier, contact them directly. If not, you can select your own. Companies that participate provide discounted rates, the minimum you would save is \$9.25 per month on your service. Choose wisely because they offer different plans with different numbers of minutes, different refill options, and serve different geographic areas.

Below is a list of the free Lifeline cellphones in Virginia

- **Access Wireless (1-888-900-5899):** Free cell phone, 100-750 minutes, unlimited texts, plus 50-200 MB data
- **Assurance Wireless (1-888-321-5880)** Free smartphone, 350 free minutes, unlimited free texts and 500 MB data
- **Safelink Wireless (1-800-378-1684)** Free cell phone, free SIM card, 1000 free minutes and 1.5 GB of data per month or 1000 free minutes and 1.0 GB per month

Applications can be done over-the-phone or online for Medicaid recipients

More information is available at:

<https://www.scc.virginia.gov/pur/phone/univ.aspx>

To inquire call your local telephone company or wireless company for enrollment details. For additional information contact the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) at

<http://www.lifelinesupport.org/1s/apply-for-lifeline/default.aspx>