

KCC: Help available to offset school-year costs

(MSC News)--The start of a new school year is an expensive time for families; and if you're struggling to pay for phone and internet services while navigating back to school costs, a release from the Kansas Corporation Commission says help is available to stay connected.

During Lifeline Awareness Week, the Kansas Corporation Commission encourages Kansans in need of assistance to apply for Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP). Both programs help low-income individuals and families stay connected so they can access healthcare, attend classes, keep up with homework, find jobs and call for help in an emergency.

Anyone who qualifies for Lifeline is automatically eligible to participate in both programs. Due to higher income maximums, ACP also has the potential to help many families with internet costs that may not qualify for other types of assistance. Lifeline provides federal and state discounts up to \$17.02 per month on phone service (wireless or residential) and broadband. The Affordable Connectivity Plan (ACP) provides a service discount of up to \$30 per month for broadband service and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

Both programs offer additional discounts for subscribers living on tribal lands.

Eligibility is based on income (at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for Lifeline or at or below 200% for ACP) or participation in certain assistance programs.

More information on income eligibility, participating providers, and the enrollment process is available on the KCC website.

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