

State Announces Lifeline Credit Program for 2014-2015



The State of New Jersey's Lifeline Credit Program will provide an annual benefit for 2014-2015 in the amount of a **\$225** total credit per eligible household. In order to receive the Lifeline credit, **you must apply**.

Eligible applicants who receive both natural gas (not bottled or propane) and electric bills will be credited with **\$112.50** on each account. Households with only one utility service, either natural gas or electric, will receive the full **\$225** credit on that account.

In addition to receiving natural gas and/or electric bills for your principal residence in your name or the name of your spouse, you must also meet **one** of the following requirements:

1. Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) - You must be enrolled in or found eligible for the state's PAAD Program. If you're currently enrolled in PAAD, you'll be sent a combined PAAD/Lifeline renewal application. The Lifeline benefit will be issued approximately two months after receiving your new PAAD card. New PAAD applicants will apply for Lifeline at the same time they apply for PAAD. **Applications for Lifeline benefits can be made throughout the year.**

2. Certain Medicaid Programs – You must be receiving or found eligible for Medicaid Assistance Only, Medical Assistance to the Aged or the New Jersey Care Special Medicaid Programs. Lifeline applications will be mailed directly to those currently enrolled. New beneficiaries will be sent applications shortly after they are enrolled.

3. Lifeline Only – If you're **not** enrolled in one of the above programs, you may still apply for the Lifeline Credit Program. To qualify, you must be at least 65 years of age at the time of application or receiving disability benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, are a resident of the State of New Jersey and your income in 2014 is less than \$26,130 if single, or less than \$32,037 if married. It's anticipated that the income limits will be increased each January 1 by the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment. To obtain a Lifeline application, please call toll-free: **800-792-9745**.

The Lifeline Credit Program is administered by the State of New Jersey's Department of Health and Senior Services. Lifeline Credit Program applications are reviewed for eligibility in the Universal Service Fund, a statewide program based on income and utility costs. For further information on Lifeline or PAAD, please call toll-free: **800-792-9745**.

