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**State of Vermont
Public Utility Commission**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**VERMONT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
PROMOTES LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK
TO HELP PEOPLE AFFORD PHONE AND BROADBAND SERVICE**

Montpelier, VT, September 14, 2020 – Today the Vermont Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) announced the start of Lifeline Awareness Week to call attention to a federal program that makes telecommunications bills more affordable for low-income households.

Lifeline is a federal program that provides a \$9.25 monthly discount on certain phone and internet service for eligible households. A “household” includes everyone who lives there and shares in the household income and expenses, both relatives and non-relatives.

The Commission urges Vermonters to contact their landline telephone or cell phone provider to find out if it offers a Lifeline discount on phone or internet service. [Participating providers](#) are listed on the Vermont Department of Public Service’s website, <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications-resources/consumers/lifeline>.

“Lifeline can help the most vulnerable Vermonters afford their phone and internet service,” said Commission Chair Anthony Z. Roisman. “While these services always play an important role in helping people connect with their loved ones, they are even more essential during the COVID-19 pandemic as social distancing has increased the use of telehealth, remote learning, and telework.”

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (“NASUCA”), the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), and state regulatory commissions have designated the first week after Labor Day—this year, September 14-18, 2020—as [National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week](https://www.naruc.org/our-programs/national-telephone-discount-lifeline-awareness-week/) (<https://www.naruc.org/our-programs/national-telephone-discount-lifeline-awareness-week/>).

For more information about the Lifeline program and how to qualify, please visit the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”) webpage, “[Get Connected](https://www.lifelinesupport.org/)” (<https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>).