



November 18, 2016
Via Electronic Filing

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk and Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC d/b/a CenturyLink
General Subscriber Services Tariff

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed for filing, please find the following revisions to the United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC d/b/a CenturyLink General Subscriber Services Tariff, submitted with a November 18, 2016 issue date and a proposed effective date of December 2, 2016.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
U1	19 th Revised Page 6	U3 (Cont'd)	2 nd Revised Page 19.2
U3	2 nd Revised Contents Page 2		3 rd Revised Page 20
	7 th Revised Page 19	U4	12 th Revised Page 4
	4 th Revised Page 19.1		

This filing is issued in compliance with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina Commission Directive issued on November 9, 2016 in the matter of Docket No. 2016-367-C.

This filing also complies with the Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, FCC 16-38, In the Matter of Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization (WC Docket No. 11-42), Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support (WC Docket No. 09-197) and Connect America Fund (WC Docket No. 10-90) adopted on March 31, 2016 and released April 27, 2016.

This filing is primarily for the purpose of revising the eligibility requirements for the Federal Lifeline Program. Changes include the addition of Veterans Pension Benefit and Survivors Pension program as a qualifying program. The following programs are removed from the list of programs that qualify customers for Lifeline assistance: Participation in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Family Program (TANF), and the National School Lunch Program's free lunch program. These programs will no longer qualify customers for federal Lifeline assistance. Applicants whose household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for Lifeline assistance, regardless of their participation in one of the qualifying programs.

These revisions acknowledge the inclusion of qualifying broadband service as a service to which the Federal Lifeline Program credit may be applied. Because the state Lifeline credit is only applicable in conjunction with voice services, this filing establishes separate subsections for the federal and state lifeline support programs. The state lifeline section supports the adoption of the federal eligibility criteria, and language is added to distinguish that the state credit may not be applied towards broadband service.

Ms. Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk and Administrator
Page 2
November 18, 2016

Additional revisions are solely for the purpose of standardizing tariff language across all CenturyLink Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier tariffs, including the move of Link-Up language from Section U4. To the Lifeline Assistance Program Section U3.10. With these revisions, CenturyLink tariffs will use the same language for the applicable tariffed regulations associated with the Federal Lifeline Program.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, you may contact Zel Gilbert at (803) 252-4505 or me at the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,



Chelle L. Rivers
Attachment

cc: Zel Gilbert, CenturyLink
Marc Felts, CenturyLink

SC 16-10

MICHELLE "CHELLE" LYN RIVERS

Tariff Analyst
Michelle.L.Rivers@Centurylink.com
100 CenturyLink Drive
Monroe, LA, 71203
voice: (318) 360-2812

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink

19th Revised Page 6
Cancels 18th Revised Page 6

(T)
(T)

ISSUED: November 18, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

INCOMING BILLED NUMBER SCREENING (IBNS) (U13)

An Operator Service which screens incoming collect or third number billed calls that are placed to the customer. IBNS is limited by the number of toll centers subscribing to the national database.

INDENTED LISTING (U6)

See "Directory Listing."

INITIAL CHARGE (U4)

See "Installation Charge."

INITIAL PERIOD (U18)

The initial period is the interval of time allowed at the rate quoted for long distance (local toll) connection between given points. All initial period rates specified in this tariff are for connections of the time periods specified in the various sections.

INITIAL SERVICE PERIOD (U2)

The minimum period of time for which service, facilities and equipment are provided; Termination Charge(s) invoked if term not expired.

INSIDE WIRE (CUSTOMER PREMISES) (U2)

That wire, including connectors, blocks and jacks, within a customer's premises that extends between the termination of the exchange access line and those standard jack locations within the customer's premises to which terminal equipment can be connected for access to the exchange access line.

INSTALLATION CHARGE (U4)

A non-recurring charge applying to the installation of other tariffed service offerings and is in addition to non-recurring Service Connection Charges as set forth in Section U4 of this tariff, applying to the establishment of basic telephone service.

INWATS (800/888 SERVICE) (U19)

Inward Wide Area Telephone Service (800/888 Service) is the furnishing of facilities for dial-type telecommunication from points throughout the service area to a (WATS) access line.

ISDN-BRI SERVICE (U24)

Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) is an intraLATA group of services supported by the ISDN architecture. ISDN-Basic Rate Interface (BRI) Service supports simultaneous transmission of voice and data services on the same exchange access line.

LIFELINE (U3)

A program sponsored by the FCC which provides discounted basic local residential or broadband service to qualifying low-income subscribers. The State Lifeline Support program does not support broadband service.

(C)
|
(C)

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink
ISSUED: November 18, 2016

2nd Revised Contents Page 2
Cancels 1st Revised Contents Page 2
EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

CONTENTS

3.10	<u>LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</u>	19	(T)
	U3.10.1 Federal Lifeline Program	19	
	U3.10.2 State Lifeline Program	19.2	
	U3.10.3 Reserved	19.2	
	U3.10.4 Link-Up Program	20	(T)
U3.11	DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE CALL COMPLETION (DACC)	22	
	U3.11.1 General	22	
	U3.11.2 Regulations	22	
	U3.11.3 Rates and Charges	23	
U3.12	NATIONAL DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE (NDA)	23	
	U3.12.1 General	23	
	U3.12.2 Regulations	23	
	U3.12.3 Rates and Charges	23	
U3.13	CENTURYLINK LINE VOLUME PLAN (CLVP)	24	
	U3.13.1 General	24	
	U3.13.2 Regulations	24	
	U3.13.3 Early Termination Liability	27	
	U3.13.4 Application of Rates	28	
	U3.13.5 Rates	30	

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink

7th Revised Page 19
Cancels 6th Revised Page 19

ISSUED: November 18, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

U3.10 LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Pursuant to FCC order 15-71, adopted June 18, 2015, the Company no longer provides Lifeline discounted service to resellers as of August 15, 2016.

(M)
(M)

Customers who received Lifeline Assistance prior to December 2, 2016 will continue to receive benefits until their annual re-certification date, at which time customers must demonstrate their continued eligibility by meeting the eligibility requirements in effect as of December 2, 2016.

(N)
|
(N)

U3.10.1 FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM

(T)

A. Description

The Federal Lifeline Program assists qualified low-income applicants with reductions in their monthly Local Exchange Service rate. The assistance applies to a single telephone line or broadband service at the applicant's principal place of residence.

(T)
(C)
(T)

B. Eligibility Requirements

To receive assistance an applicant must demonstrate an annual household income at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, or must demonstrate participation by the applicant, applicant's dependent(s) or a member of applicant's household ^[1] in one of the following programs:

(T)

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension Benefit and Survivors Pension

(C)
|
(C)

C. Terms and Conditions

(T)

1. An applicant may request Lifeline assistance through completion and submission of a form provided by the Company or by an agent of the state or Federal Communications Commission.
2. The Federal Lifeline Program credit may be applied to any qualifying residential Local Exchange Service provided by the Company (including Packaged Services).

(T)

^[1] A household is defined, for purposes of administering this program, as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses.

(N)
|
(N)

(M) Material previously appeared on 1st Revised Page 19.2.

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink

4th Revised Page 19.1
Cancels 3rd Revised Page 19.1

ISSUED: November 18, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

U3.10 LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(T)

U3.10.1 FEDERAL LIFELINE PROGRAM

C. Terms and Conditions (Cont'd)

- 3. Customers are limited to one credit per household, which may be applied towards a qualifying wireline service, broadband service or a bundled voice and data service package. Customers are not eligible to receive a credit from the Company if they receive a Federal Lifeline Program credit for a service provided by another Eligible Telecommunications Carrier or Lifeline Broadband Provider.
- 4. The Federal Lifeline Program credit will be pro-rated on the basis of a 30-day month from the effective date of the customer's application.
- 5. Applicants must provide proof of eligibility and be deemed eligible for participation before monthly credits begin. Credits will only be issued on a go-forward basis.
- 6. Nonrecurring charges will not apply when establishing this program on existing service.
- 7. Partial payments made by Lifeline customers will be applied first towards local service charges.
- 8. Toll Restriction (also known as Restriction Service) is available to Lifeline customers upon request at no charge. No service deposit will be required for applicants who voluntarily elect toll restriction with the initiation of Lifeline service.

(T)
(C)
(T)

Any Lifeline customer who has a past due balance in toll message charges will be automatically restricted from access to toll services until the outstanding balance is paid. The customer will not be charged for the toll restriction placed on the account. The Restoration Charge applies to Lifeline customers whose message toll service has been restricted for nonpayment.

If a Lifeline customer is toll restricted for a second occurrence, the Company may, at its discretion, place the Lifeline customer on a permanent toll restriction. A Lifeline subscriber's request for reconnection or re-establishment of local service will not be denied if the service was previously suspended or disconnected for non-payment of toll charges.

4. Monthly Credit

	<u>Credit Amount</u>
Federal Lifeline Program Credit, per month	\$9.25

(T)

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink

2nd Revised Page 19.2
Cancels 1st Revised Page 19.2

ISSUED: November 18, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

U3.10	<u>LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</u>	(T)	
	U13.10.2 STATE LIFELINE PROGRAM	(N)	
	A. Customers who qualify for the Federal Lifeline Program will receive an additional reduction of \$3.50 off the customer's monthly basic local service charge, resulting from a state funded credit. The state credit is not available for broadband services.	(T) (N) (N)	(M) (M)
	B. If, after applying the State Lifeline credit, the Net rate is less than zero, the State Lifeline credit amount will be reduced by the amount required to achieve a Net Rate of zero.	(T) (T)	(M1) (M1)
	U13.10.3 RESERVED	(N)	

(M) Material previously appeared on 6th Revised Page 19.

(M1) Material previously appeared on 3rd Revised Page 19.1.

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink

3rd Revised Page 20
Cancels 2nd Revised Page 20

ISSUED: November 18, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

U3.10 LIFELINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)

(T)

(D)

(D)

U3.10.4 LINK-UP PROGRAM

Link-Up assistance for non-Tribal Lifeline customers was eliminated as of April 1, 2012, pursuant to the FCC's Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket No. 11-42, FCC 12-11 (rel. Feb. 6, 2012).

(T)

(M)

(T)

(M)

(M) Material previously appeared on 11th Revised Page 4 of Section U4.

GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

United Telephone Company of the Carolinas LLC
d/b/a CenturyLink

12th Revised Page 4
Cancels 11th Revised Page 4

ISSUED: November 18, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

U4. SERVICE CHARGES

U4.3 APPLICATION OF RATES AND CHARGES (Cont'd)

U4.3.5 **RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

(T)(M)

(M) Material previously appearing on this page now appears on Page 20 of Section U3.