

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in today's highly interconnected world, voice and broadband access provide a lifeline to emergency help, and a vital link to government services, community resources, friends, and family; however, not everyone can afford the cost of a voice or broadband connection, and a number of our nation's households still are not connected to the telecommunications network; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Utilities Commission and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have collaborated to make voice and broadband services more affordable for low-income consumers; and

WHEREAS, the Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) program offers great benefits for eligible low-income and Veteran Pension consumers, and makes telecommunications service more affordable by providing a discount on their monthly bill; participants can apply their discount to voice, broadband, or a voice-broadband bundle; and

WHEREAS, the FCC has established Enhanced Link-Up and Lifeline programs for Tribal Lands, and recently updated its rules governing Lifeline program eligibility and non-duplication of support; and

WHEREAS, cost should not prevent consumers' access to phone or broadband service; the promotion of Lifeline is imperative to ensure that all citizens have access to affordable telecommunications service; and

WHEREAS, the Lifeline program has undergone a transformation in recent years to improve program efficiency and combat waste, fraud, and abuse to ensure that only those eligible receive this vital support; and


WHEREAS, the FCC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), other state and federal agencies, cities, counties, organizations, and telecommunications companies are committed to increasing awareness about the availability of the Lifeline program, and are encouraging eligible people to sign up; and

WHEREAS, the FCC, NARUC, and NASUCA have joined together to design and implement a comprehensive outreach plan to promote Lifeline subscribership; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages government agencies, industry leaders, and consumer advocates to promote outreach events and educate residents about state and federal programs for telephone and broadband connectivity during National Lifeline Awareness Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 10 – 14, 2018, as "**LIFELINE AWARENESS WEEK**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twelfth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.