

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - PHONE

10/2005

The INFO SERIES has been developed to provide you with general information. The descriptions do not describe the full extent of services or products. We encourage you to evaluate all information and determine which is most appropriate for your particular needs. We recommend contacting the organization /company for more information. You may also contact one of the Independent Living Specialists at Society's Assets.

Wisconsin Lifeline & Link-Up Programs

The **Lifeline Program** keeps phone service affordable by reducing monthly phone charges for income-eligible households.

The **Link-Up Program** is designed to help households without telephone service get onto the telephone network and those with phone service to keep it when they move. It does this by waiving local telephone connection charges.

You may be eligible if on Medical Assistance, W2, Supplemental Security Income, Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, WI Homestead Tax Credit and/or Badger Care. These programs are available by contacting your current telephone company and telling them you want to apply for the Lifeline or Link-Up.

Free Directory Assistance Program

This program was created for people with mobility and/or visual disabilities. This program allows you to dial the operator and they will connect you to the person you are trying to reach at no charge to you. Contact your telephone provider to see if you are eligible for this service. You may be required to fill out some forms sent to you from the phone company to sign up for one or more of these programs.

Free Emergency Cell Phone Service

Cellular telephone companies offer free cell phones, with no monthly charge, that can be used to dial only 911 calls in case of an emergency.

TEPP/TAP

TEPP (Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program) is to help people with disabilities buy equipment needed to use their basic telephone service. There is no age or income limit. You must be a Wisconsin resident, be deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or mobility or motion impaired, and need special equipment to use the telephone. Phone: 800-251-8345 TTY, 608-231-3305 V

Web site: <http://psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/assistancePgms/tepp/tepp-ind.htm>



TAP (Telecommunication Assistance Program) may be able to help pay for the co-payment if you are a low-income household and the person is deaf, deaf blind, or hard of hearing. Applications are available at Society's Assets or you may contact the Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing at: 608-266-3118 V/TTY.



Telephone Disconnection - If you have a serious illness and disconnection would place you in an emergency or dangerous situation, contact your phone company immediately. You may be able to maintain minimum phone service with documentation of illness and need for service.

Other Info Sheets to ask for –

- Adaptive Phones Vendor List
- Do Not Call Lists and Consumer Protection
- Life Line Services
- Telephone Demonstration Fairs
- TEPP Brochure and Application

The listings on this Info Sheet should in no way be construed to constitute an endorsement of a company, organization or its service, nor should exclusion be construed to constitute disapproval. The information that appears in this publication was obtained from the company/organizations listed above.



www.sai-inc.org
info@sai-inc.org

Racine Office
5200 Washington Ave. #225
Racine, WI 53406
(262) 637-9128 V/TTY
(800) 378-9128 V/TTY

Kenosha Office
5727 6th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140
(262) 657-3999 V/TTY
(800) 317-3999 V/TTY

Elkhorn Office
615 E. Geneva Street
Elkhorn, WI 53121
(262) 723-8181 V/TTY
(800) 261-8181 V/TTY

Alternative Format Available Upon Request