

How to Get Free Government Phones

QUALIFICATIONS: If you are already receiving any one or more of these Programs:

MEDICAID, SSI, WIC, SNAP, SECTION 8, TRIBAL TANF or LOW INCOME

The Lifeline Assistance program exists to assist qualified Americans in obtaining a free government phone.

How You Can Get an Free Phone

If you qualify based on your income, you will receive a free cell phone with 250 free minutes per month. Needy Americans can get approved through many different retailers in 49 states along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Find a Free Government Phone Provider

You must check with one of the companies that offer phones through the Lifeline Assistance program. There are many providers out there, but the most popular ones are **Safelink Wireless** and **Assurance Wireless**. Providers include **Budget Mobile**, **Life Wireless**, **Assist Wireless**, **I-Wireless**, **Terracom Wireless**, **YourTel Wireless**, **Tag Mobile**, **Cintex Wireless**, **Care Wireless**, and Wireless for Hope. Because of the expansion of these programs nationwide, this list is subject to change.

Steps to Getting a Free Government Phone

Eligibility rules differ by state, but are similar. A good rule of thumb is that if you qualify for a state assistance program like SNAP, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Free School Lunch program, Medicaid, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Tribal programs, or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), then you may already qualify to receive telephone assistance. In addition to those state-funded programs, you can qualify for the free phone program if your income is below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. This percentage is as high as 150 percent of the poverty level in some states.

Selecting the Best Offer

When you determine which companies offer phones in your area, you must next visit the websites of the companies that distribute these phones. Many of the providers that offer phones in different states vary what their programs offer each individual consumer, so you may need to shop around at each of their websites in order to determine which has the best deal. Some providers give you the 250 minutes as part of the government program, but also offer additional minutes at a reduced rate. In addition, some of the providers may also offer texting at reduced rates.