

FCC Statement on Lifeline Reforms

The FCC in January enacted comprehensive reform and modernization of Lifeline to eliminate waste and update the program to better manage increasingly popular mobile service subscriptions. These reforms will save \$2 billion over three years by creating a National Lifeline Accountability Database to prevent duplicate Lifeline subscriptions, creating an eligibility database enabling fully automated verification of eligibility, conducting independent audits of carriers every two years, eliminating the unnecessary "Link Up" program, and other measures. While these databases are being developed, the FCC will continue to weed out duplicate subscriptions state-by-state in a process that has already eliminated 270,000 duplicates and saved \$35 million. It's critical that no resources are wasted so that the program can fulfill its mission of providing a lifeline to critical communications for low income consumers seeking jobs, staying in touch with family members, or calling for help in an emergency.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski also issued this statement following FCC approval of Lifeline reform order last month.