

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week
September 14-20, 2009

In today's highly interconnected world, telephones provide a lifeline to emergency help and a vital link to government services, community resources, friends and family; *and*

not everyone can afford the cost of a home telephone; *and*

a number of Ohio's households still do not have telephone service in their homes; *and*

the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) have joined in a collaborative effort to make telephone service more affordable for the nation's low-income consumers by providing a discount on the connection fee and monthly charges for local telephone service; *and*

the Lifeline Assistance program offers tremendous benefits for eligible telephone consumers in Ohio and makes basic telephone service more affordable; *and*

the Lifeline program provides a monthly discount to eligible low-income customers for basic telephone service, a waiver of all charges for telephone service connection and free toll blocking and 900 or 976 blocking; *and*

consumers should not be without local phone service because they cannot afford it, and therefore the promotion of Lifeline is imperative to ensure that all Ohioans have access to affordable basic local telephone service; *and*

the FCC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, the PUCO, OCC and telecommunications companies are committed to increasing awareness about the availability of the Lifeline program and are encouraging eligible citizens to sign up for the programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TED STRICKLAND, Governor of the State of Ohio, recognize the week of September 14-20, 2009, National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week in Ohio. I call upon government agencies, industry leaders and consumer advocates to educate Ohioans about Lifeline assistance during National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week.

On this 14th day of September 2009



Ted Strickland
Governor