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## Georgia Public Service Commission

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**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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### ***Commission Announces Lifeline Awareness Week for September 10-16, 2012 New Eligibility Requirements in Place***

ATLANTA, August 30, 2012 – The Georgia Public Service Commission announces that Lifeline Awareness Week this year is September 10-16, 2012. The Commission's focus this year is making consumers aware of new eligibility requirements adopted this year by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Lifeline will provide eligible consumers with a \$9.25 discount on their telecommunications service whether landline or cellular. Lifeline service however, is available only to eligible consumers. Those requirements include:

- Consumers may receive only ONE discount per household that may be applied to either their wireline or wireless service.
- Federal rules prohibit consumers from receiving more than one Lifeline service.
- If a consumer or his or her household currently has more than one Lifeline discounted service, they must select a single provider immediately or be subject to penalties.
- In order to enroll in Lifeline, potential subscribers must demonstrate their eligibility by showing proof of income or participation in a qualifying program.
- All Lifeline subscribers must annually re-certify their eligibility.
- During 2012, all Lifeline subscribers will be contacted by their service provider to re-confirm that they remain eligible in the program. If a subscriber does not reconfirm eligibility, he or she may lose their Lifeline benefit.

“The Commission has taken steps to improve accountability in this program and prevent fraud,” said Commission Chairman Tim Echols. “This is important to insure the program remains in place for those who really need it”

To sign up, consumers should contact their prospective telecommunications provider. Consumers should be aware that not all providers offer the Lifeline discount and should contact any potential provider before making a commitment. Consumers can find more information at: <http://www.fcc.gov/lifeline/outreach>. Consumers can find Lifeline providers by State ([www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)) and a Lifeline Eligibility pre-screening tool (<http://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/am-i-eligible.aspx>).

For more information on the Commission, see the Commission web site at [www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us). Twitter us at #Georgiapsc

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