

**Delaware Public Service Commission and Public Advocate recognizes
“Lifeline Awareness Week” September 8-14, 2014**



Dover – The federal Lifeline program improves the lives of Delawareans by allowing them to stay connected to friends, family, important local resources and vital emergency services.

The Delaware Public Service Commission and Office of the Public Advocate are emphasizing the program during “Lifeline Awareness Week”, September 8-14, 2014. Lifeline helps low income consumers connect to the nation’s communications networks, find jobs, access health care services, connect with family and call for help in an emergency. Under the federal Lifeline Assistance Program, telephone customers who participate in or are eligible for certain public assistance programs are entitled to receive basic telephone service at a discounted price.

The purpose of Lifeline Awareness Week is to ensure that eligible low-income families and individuals are aware of the Lifeline program, eligibility criteria, non-duplication rules, annual recertification requirements, and to encourage enrollment.

Dallas Winslow, Chairman of the Delaware Public Service Commission said, “Many of us take our phone service for granted. Unfortunately, the reality is many Delawareans cannot afford any phone service, and are disconnected from the community. The Lifeline program can help by providing a critical resource to low income Delawareans. I encourage all eligible Delawareans to take advantage of this important program.”

The Lifeline program can play an important role in staying touch with employers, family and other important community contacts, like a teacher or coach. Delaware Public Advocate David L. Bonar added, “The Lifeline program gives people who need it most a reduction in their basic telephone cost, whether through a landline or cell phone. The program bridges an important gap between low income individuals and the services they vitally need.”

Governor Jack Markell has designated September 8-14 “Lifeline Awareness Week” in Delaware, and the Public Service Commission and Office of the Public Advocate encourages residents to stay connected with their families and communities.

For more information on program eligibility, rules and key questions, visit the Federal Communications Commission Lifeline Frequently Asked Questions page at:
<http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/LifelineFAQs.pdf>

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