

**Delaware Public Service Commission and Public Advocate recognizes
“Lifeline Awareness Week” September 9-15, 2013**



Dover – The Delaware Public Service Commission and Office of the Public Advocate recognizes that access to local telephone service helps vulnerable families and adults to stay in contact with family members, vital emergency services and community resources. 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. The Lifeline program 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. For some, local phone service can be the difference between social connection and complete isolation.

Dallas Winslow, Chairman of the Delaware Public Service Commission said, “The Lifeline program provides a critical resource to low income Delawareans. In today’s environment, everyone needs to be able to communicate quickly with their family and emergency personnel, and the Lifeline program facilitates that.”

Being able to access community resources and stay in touch with employers is another program benefit. Delaware Public Advocate David L. Bonar said, “In this economy, Lifeline can be a valuable tool to assist low income consumers during a job search, or to help parents stay connected with their children’s teachers. I strongly encourage all low income Delawareans to explore the benefits of the Lifeline program.”

During “Lifeline Awareness Week,” September 9-15, the Public Service Commission and Office of the Public Advocate want 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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