

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Oregon Telephone Assistance Program



Jon Cray, Program Manager
February 4, 2021

Oregon Telephone Assistance Program

- Oregon Legislature directed PUC to assure adequate, affordable residential telecommunication service is available to all citizens and to support broadband internet access service.



Oregon Telephone Assistance Program



Federal
Communications
Commission
Lifeline Program

Eligible Low-Income Oregon Households

<u>Phone Service</u>	
Oregon Discount:	\$7.00
FCC Discount:	<u>\$5.25</u>
Total Discount:	\$12.25

<u>High-Speed Internet Service</u>	
Oregon Discount:	\$7.00
FCC Discount:	<u>\$9.25</u>
Total Discount:	\$16.25



Oregon Telephone Assistance Program

**Income at or below 135%
Federal Poverty Guidelines**

or

**Participation in SNAP,
Medicaid, etc.**

Eligibility



SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Oregon Telephone Assistance Program

National Lifeline Accountability Database

- **Opt Out**

National Verifier

- **FCC Relies on
PUC Eligibility
Determinations**

Customer Support

- **State Level**



Oregon Telephone Assistance Program

30 Landline
6 Wireless

36 Participating
Companies



Warm Springs Telecom



CenturyLink®



Oregon Telephone Assistance Program

**60,000
Households**

**10%
Participation Rate**

Participation Rate = Total Number of Households / Total Number of SNAP Households

Oregon Telephone Assistance Program

- Factors Influencing Participation Rates
 - Not All Phone or Broadband Internet Access Service Companies Participate
 - FCC and PUC Efforts to Curb Waste, Fraud, and Abuse
 - PUC Discovery of Company Misconduct
 - Coronavirus Pandemic → Sharp Growth in Eligible Households Receiving SNAP

While actual number of customers is gradually increasing, the participation rate has been in flux.



Questions or Comments?

