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## SPECIAL BULLETIN

### **Federal Broadband Lifeline Program** *Updated Minimum Service Standards*

The Wireline Competition Bureau recently released a [Public Notice](#) announcing updated minimum service standards for Lifeline-supported fixed broadband services. With the release of the [2016 Lifeline Order](#), the FCC officially adopted broadband (either standalone or as part of a bundle) as a Lifeline-supported service. Included with this was a initial set of minimum service standards—speed of 10/1 Mbps and monthly capacity of 150 gb—to be updated on an annual basis.

**Effective December 1, 2017, the minimum fixed broadband Lifeline service standards will increase to 15/2 Mbps and 250 gb monthly capacity.**

The updated standards are based on those a substantial majority of American consumers already subscribe to, based on Form 477 data.

In addition, the Bureau announced the Lifeline program annual budget for calendar year 2018—\$2,279,250,000. This represents an increase over the current \$2.25 billion budget and is based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Note that the exception to the Lifeline-supported fixed broadband service minimum service standards still exists: carriers are under no obligation to provide Lifeline broadband service at these levels (15/2, 250gb) where such a service is not generally available on a commercial basis. Instead, a Lifeline provider will receive support for the “highest performing generally available residential fixed broadband” service offering of at least 4/1 Mbps. In other words, Lifeline broadband customers are not eligible for higher service levels than what are generally available to all customers in a given area.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



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Questions? Comments?

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