## **Notice to TrioTel Communications, Inc. Customers**

**Lifeline** support is available from TrioTel Communications, Inc. This federal program provides discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telecommunication service.

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service and/or broadband service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts. In addition, the Federal Universal Service Charge is not assessed to consumers participating in Lifeline.

Toll Blocking prevents the placement of all long distance calls for which a subscriber would be charged. Toll blocking is available to eligible consumers at no cost. Also, by choosing this option, consumers are usually not charged a deposit.

Customers are eligible if they, one of their dependents, or their household participate in one of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), f/k/a Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension

In addition, consumers are eligible if their household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

TrioTel Communications, Inc.'s services are Lifeline-supported service. Only eligible consumers may enroll in the Lifeline program. Lifeline applicants must present documentation demonstrating eligibility either through participation in one of the qualifying federal assistance programs or through income-based means. Lifeline recipients are required to recertify their eligibility every year. The Lifeline program is limited to one benefit per household, consisting of either wireline or wireless service. A household is defined, for purposes of the Lifeline program, as an individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income expenses. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

To apply for this low-income assistance, please contact TrioTel Communications, Inc. at 605-425-2238, email <u>customerservice@triotel.net</u> or stop by our office at 330 S. Nebraska St., in Salem, SD.