Free Cellular Phone Service: is It for You?

by Governmentcellphone

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The free government cell phone service has been a great success and people from all over the country are benefiting from this plan. Nevertheless, there are certain things that one needs to check before applying. When you reach out to a service provider, are you sure that they are a genuine service provider? For this, it is best to know the rules and regulations that govern this free cellular phone service. The rules are more or less the same throughout the nation with a few minor differences among the states for the qualifying criteria.

If you are in any of the states like Louisiana, Arkansas, Illinois, Oklahoma, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Washington, Rhode Island, Nevada, Iowa, Texas and West Virginia, the rules for you are similar. Anyone who wants to apply should be participating in any of the government assistance programs like Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Medicaid, National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Another condition, which allows a person to apply, is if the household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Also, if you are on Tribal land and receive assistance from Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally Administered TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Head Start â€“ Tribal, you qualify for even greater benefits.

The free government assisted cell phone plan normally does not cost anything. However, in Oklahoma, there is $1 per month charge for the 1000-minute plan. In addition, in Texas the residents will need to pay a $30 activation fee. Other than these, there no costs involved to receive a handset and free minutes each month. When you select a service provider for the program, make sure to check the rules and regulations that are required in your state.

Anyone who applies for the program is entitled to receive a subsidy from the Federal govâ€™t that will provide a certain number of free minutes per month that allows you to make local and long distance calls. The provider usually will give you a free cell phone with the service. These phones also come with other basic facilities like sending and receiving text messages, accessing voice calls, 911 and directory assistance. Youâ€™ll get a fixed number of minutes every month (usually ranging from 68 to 250, depending on the state). The minutes are replenished in the beginning of every month. However, one can always buy additional minutes if required and that too is at discounted prices. Once you are sure of the rules and regulations and are clear on what you would be getting, you can easily apply for the program through an online service provider.

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