

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 11, 2023 Contact: Meghan Sovey, 608-266-9600 meghan.sovey1@wisconsin.gov

## PSC Recognizes "Digital Connectivity & Lifeline Awareness Week"

Stakeholders promote telecommunications discount programs during September 11-15, 2023

MADISON - The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) reminds residents during Digital Connectivity & Lifeline Awareness Week of the discount programs available to help access essential phone and internet services. The PSC proudly joins the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, to raise awareness of the FCC's programs, including Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program and the PSC state Lifeline program.

"Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program help Wisconsinites stay connected by lowering the cost of essential phone and internet services for eligible residents," said PSC Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "I appreciate the ongoing collaboration with federal partners and telecommunications providers to raise awareness of these important resources. Together, we are working to ensure affordable access to these basic services."

The Lifeline Program provides eligible Wisconsin residents affordable access to essential telecommunications services by discounting the cost of phone, cell, and internet services. Lifeline discounts can range from \$7.25 to \$18.50 per month. More information is available at <a href="https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/Lifeline.aspx">https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/Lifeline.aspx</a>.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps eligible households get a discount of up to \$30 per month for broadband service and internet connected devices, and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. More information about ACP can be found at <u>GetInternet.gov</u>.

In July, Governor Tony Evers along with the PSC and Department of Public Instruction announced the <u>Internet Discount Finder</u> website to make it even easier for Wisconsin households to find and access affordable internet. The Internet Discount Finder quickly matches eligible Wisconsin residents to low-cost home internet service and discount programs, including Lifeline and ACP, by entering their address and identifying their eligibility criteria. The Internet Discount Finder can be found at <u>https://apps.psc.wi.gov/InternetDiscountFinder</u>

Support is available to individuals who cannot access these online resources by calling the numbers below:

- Wisconsin Internet and Phone Helpline (608) 267-3595
- Affordable Connectivity Program (877) 384-2575
- Federal Lifeline Support Center (877) 384-9473

• Wisconsin <u>211</u>, which connects to thousands of nonprofit and government services across the state.