



# Smartphone Resources

## Eligible For Lifeline?

Lifeline provides phone/internet discounts for low-income households: <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>

Assurance Wireless is one Lifeline-based program that provides a complete phone service with phone.

### Assurance Wireless

- Main website: <https://www.assurancewireless.com/>
- Additional information: <https://www.assurancewireless.com/help-center/faqs>
- Apply Online: <https://www.assurancewireless.com/apply-now>
- Apply On The Phone: **1-888-898-4888**

### Assurance Wireless Plan (Lifeline only)

- Free Android smartphone + free 4.5GB data, unlimited texts, 1000 minutes monthly

### Assurance Wireless Unlimited Plan (Lifeline + Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP))

This plan also uses the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides internet service discounts and a one-time discount on a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer to low-income households. You may consider using this benefit for those services rather than this phone plan: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>

- Free Android smartphone + free unlimited data, texts, minutes, and 10GB monthly mobile hotspot data

### Website Resources

There are other phone programs available that you can research to find an option that works for you:

<https://www.seattle.gov/tech/services/free-and-discounted-devices/discount-smart-phones>

<https://www.freegovernmentcellphones.net/states/washington-government-cell-phone-providers>

### Phone Resources

Call **2-1-1** for a free, confidential community service phone line that connects you with a referral specialist who can assess your needs and provide a list of useful resources in your community.

## Not Eligible For Lifeline?

If you are not eligible for Lifeline but are interested in affordable smartphone options.

### Prepaid vs. Contract Phone Plan

A **contract** phone means you agree to paying for a long-term phone plan.

- Offers 'free' phones but those costs are usually included in your monthly phone bill
- Locked into payments for a set amount of time, often around 2 years

A **prepaid** phone means you pay everything up front each month.

- Typically cheaper and more flexible, can stop plan anytime
- If you run out of minutes/data, you cannot use your phone data until you make another payment

### Phone Examples

You can find prepaid or contract phones at most stores that sell electronics. Verify the phone will work with the phone plan you choose. Call the cellular company or check their website for assistance.

A **flip phone** can be much cheaper than smartphones (\$20-\$60)

- Limited functionality; a good option if you just need phone calls and texts

You can find **smartphones** in the price range of \$50-\$100

- Most phones work just fine if you only need basic calls, texts, emails, and internet browsing

### Phone Plan Examples

Mint Mobile: <https://www.mintmobile.com/>

- Around \$15-\$30 per month depending on data plan selected

Tello: <https://tello.com/>

- Around \$5-\$29 per month with flexible plan options

T-Mobile: <https://www.t-mobile.com/cell-phone-plans/unlimited-55-senior-discount-plans>

- Unlimited deal; better if you need 2x lines (\$40/month for 1x line or \$55/month for 2x lines)