Access to free Wi-Fi:



Tyrone Area School District:

From the parking lots of the Tyrone Area School District, district issued Chromebooks are able to get WiFi signal. People should remain in their cars or at a safe distance away from others.

The Tyrone-Snyder Public Library:

Free WiFi is available at the Tyrone-Snyder Public Library, which is now open with modified hours (visit www.tyronelibrary.org or call 684-1133 for more information). WiFi can be accessed in the Library's entire parking lot and the Hotel Park (across Pennsylvania Ave. from the library). No password is required, just connect to **TSPL-Guest**. The library has 2 mobile hotspots to check out for a nonrefundable fee of \$5.00 due upon check out of the device. The loan period for the mobile hotspot is 28 days. The hotspot cannot be renewed, but can be checked out again after return and payment of another \$5.00 fee, as long as a waiting list for the devices does not exist.

Low or no cost options:

Xfinity offers an Internet Essentials program that allows qualifying customers to purchase a plan for just \$9.95 per month. Internet Essentials is designed to help students, seniors, and low-income families. The program offers 15 Mbps internet and free in-home Wi-Fi and requires no credit check.

Xfinity also offers <u>low-cost computers</u> as part of the Internet Essentials program. Customers can choose a laptop or desktop computer for \$149, which includes Microsoft Office, Norton Security Suite, and a 90-day warranty.

To get Internet Essentials, customers need to fill out an application and wait to be approved. For a family to qualify, they must have at least one child eligible for the National School Lunch Program and meet a handful of other requirements.

Comcast Xfinity is currently offering its <u>Internet Essentials</u> program free for two months to new customers. The internet provider is also automatically increasing speeds for all Internet Essentials customers.

Comcast Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots are also open and free to use by anyone.

Authorized Retailer

AT&T's Access program offers up to 10 Mbps internet to eligible low-income families for \$10.00 per month. To qualify for Access, customers must have at least one family member who participates in the SNAP program.

Visit the Access page to fill out an application and see if you qualify.

Charter Spectrum Free internet for students from Charter Spectrum

Households with students K–12 or university students can sign up for a new Charter Spectrum internet account to get the first two months of internet with speeds up to 100 Mbps for free. Installation fees will be waived for those who qualify for the offer. Call <u>1-844-488-8395</u> to enroll. Spectrum Wi-Fi hotspots are also currently open and free to use.

NetZero

NetZero offers customers up to 10 hours of free dial-up internet use every month. The connection requires a home phone line, and it's limited to data speeds of around 56 Kbps (about half of 1 Mbps). It's not a fast enough connection for online gaming or streaming video content, but it'll do for basic messaging, email, and web browsing if you're patient.

FreedomPop

FreedomPop also has a few options for free internet service. The company offers both free mobile phone service and free home internet service via 4G LTE connections. The high-speed internet claims to be faster than DSL (and definitely faster than dial-up), but you're limited to 1 GB of data per month.



Lifeline is a government program backed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It provides a monthly phone or internet service discount for low-income households. At the time of writing, Lifeline benefits give eligible subscribers a discount of at least \$9.25 per month off landline phone service, wireless phone service, broadband, or bundled services.

How do I qualify for Lifeline?

There are two ways to qualify:

• Through your income. If your income is 135% of the federal poverty guideline or less, you can qualify for Lifeline assistance. The guidelines vary with household size and the state you live in, but the average federal poverty guideline is generally about \$34,000 for a family of four.

- Through a government program. If you or someone in your household participates in select federal assistance programs, you may qualify for Lifeline. These are the eligible programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefits
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Medicaid

You can also qualify if a child or dependent participates in one of the listed programs.

How does Lifeline work?

If you qualify, you choose a participating provider in your area and sign up. You'll have to provide proof of eligibility and renew your Lifeline subscription every year. You can also have only one Lifeline benefit per household, so you have to choose between a phone or internet subsidy.

Several ISPs participate in Lifeline benefits programs. You can find all your options using the Lifeline provider database. But here are a few examples of companies that participate:

- CenturyLink
- Frontier
- RCN
- Windstream
- Verizon