

# Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

October 2025

## Co-ops Put People First

In addition to the beautiful weather October brings, it is also a special month here because it is nationally known as Co-op Appreciation Month.

October recognizes co-ops this month and the benefits cooperatives bring to their members. Your co-op was created for one reason...to provide the rural areas communication services like you would receive in cities or urban areas. In the last 70+ years we have worked hard to meet the communication needs of our community while improving the infrastructure for years to come. It is our goal to strengthen our rural community. Even though the world around us seems to be in chaos and disarray, positive change is still happening here every day.

To celebrate October's Co-op Appreciation Month this year, EACH day in the month of October we will be giving away FIVE - \$10 bill credits. Every co-op member will be

automatically entered into a daily drawing. There will be a list of winners displayed in November's newsletter. We appreciate each and every one of you!



### Oct 1 Statement Changes:



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Congress recognize that telephone service provides a vital link to emergency services, government services, and surrounding communities. To help promote telecommunications service nationwide, the FCC, as directed by Congress and with the help of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), administers the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF). The federal USF pays for four programs: Lifeline/Link Up, High Cost, Schools and Libraries, and Rural Health Care. Companies contribute a certain percentage of the amount billed to their residential and business customers for interstate and international calls. The exact percentage that companies contribute is adjusted every quarter based on projected demand for Universal Service funding.

As of October 1st, residential customers will see the FUSC-R Fed Univ Serv Chg Res on their statements. This rate/fee is increasing from 36% to 38.1%. This rate fluctuates quarterly, and we will always notify you when there is an increase.

The State IUSF Surcharge is changing as well. This percentage is increasing from 2.6495% to 2.9502%. This percentage fluctuates annually, and is billed monthly. We will always notify you when this rate increases.

### Calendar of Events:

- Oct 13 - Columbus Day  
Our office is OPEN.
- Oct 16 - Boss's Day
- Oct 25 - Make A Difference Day
- Oct 31 - Halloween

6th Annual Halloween on the  
Square McLeansboro



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## Connect and Save With Lifeline

RELATED RESOURCES:

[Lifeline Program Overview](#)  
[How To Apply](#)  
[Manage Your Benefit](#)

Lifeline is a federal program that helps lower the monthly cost of your phone or internet service.

### Program Benefits

Up to **\$9.25/month** on phone, internet, or bundled service  
Up to **\$34.25/month** if you live on qualifying Tribal lands

### You May Qualify

- If you, a child, or a dependent participate in a government assistance program like:
  - SNAP
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
  - Tribal Head Start
  - Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
  - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- If your household income is at or below 135% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)

### How To Get The Benefit



**1** **Apply**  
Apply now at  
[LifelineSupport.org](https://lifelinesupport.org)



**2** **Connect**  
Contact a [phone or internet company](#)  
to get your benefit



**3** **Save**  
Get a discount  
on your phone or internet bill

### Learn More

Visit [LifelineSupport.org](https://lifelinesupport.org) to find participating phone or internet companies and see if you are eligible.

If you live in **California** ([Californialifeline.com](https://californialifeline.com)), **Oregon** ([Lifeline.Oregon.gov](https://lifeline.oregon.gov)), or **Texas** ([TexasLifeline.org](https://texaslifeline.org)), visit the website for your state to find out how to apply.



**NEED HELP?** Call (800) 234-9473 or Email [LifelineSupport@usac.org](mailto:LifelineSupport@usac.org).

The Lifeline program is administered by USAC with oversight from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Available for Public Use

Pay your bill by phone:  
1-855-940-3828

Pay your bill online:  
<https://hcc.smarthub.coop>

Kevin Pyle  
Executive Vice President &  
General Manager

Board of Directors:

647 Exchange  
Steven Douglass

648 Exchange  
Alan Monroe, Secretary

728 Exchange  
Chris Sink, President

736 Exchange  
Lemuel Gage, Vice-President

756 Exchange  
Rob Kiefer, Treasurer

757 Exchange  
Justin Woodrow

773 Exchange  
Robert Abbott



**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE DAY**

NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

October 25

Make a Plan.

Make a Difference.



Congratulations to September's Newsletter Winners: Brandon Reyling, Donald Williamson, and Joyce Schnicker.

**Check out our website at [www.hamiltoncom.net](http://www.hamiltoncom.net)  
for more information about the Co-op.**