

NOTICE: State Public Utilities Commission Public Participation Hearing!

Information online here:

<http://accesshumboldt.net/site/state-public-utilities-commission-convenes-lifeline-hearing-eureka>

Public Participation Hearing: California LifeLine

--> July 17, 2013, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Humboldt County, Board of Supervisors, 825 5th St., Eureka, CA 95501

The CPUC is holding Public Participation Hearings to discuss potential changes to the California LifeLine program, such as new discount levels; expanding the services eligible for the discount, including wireless Lifeline service, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), and other non-traditional services, and what these services might include; continued support for application of discounts to installation charges; pros and cons of pre-qualification of potential Lifeline customers; and, other topics of interest to California LifeLine subscribers or potential applicants. (R.11-03-013)

The hearing will be televised live on Suddenlink cable system over Access Humboldt's channel AH-11.

Lifeline is one of the universal service programs created to make sure that every person in every place has access to basic communications services to support education, health care, civic engagement and other public purposes.

The program is a hot topic in the California Legislature right now, as noted in a Los Angeles Times article by Marc Lifsher on July 8, 2013 with the heading: "State Senate panel backs AT&T in clash on LifeLine phone service - The Senate panel supports a bill backed by AT&T that turns LifeLine into a voucher system and gets rid of most oversight by state regulators."

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-lifeline-phones-20130709,0,6601923...>

Access Humboldt's executive director Sean McLaughlin noted: "We hope folks will come out to the hearing in Eureka and share local, rural perspectives with the Commission. With support from the Benton Foundation, New America Foundation, and ZeroDivide, we are happy to host a Broadband Policy Roundtable on the future of Universal Service, just prior to the hearing from 1:00 to 3:00pm. More information is on our site here: <http://accesshumboldt.net/site/broadband-policy-roundtable-july-17-2013>

For more information contact: Sean McLaughlin, Access Humboldt - [sean@accesshumboldt.net](mailto:sean@accesshumboldt.net)

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