



## Wisconsin's Self-Directed Supports Program

### Free Cell Phone Information

#### Am I eligible for a free government cell phone?

Yes. IRIS is a Medicaid waiver program, and anyone who already participates in a state or federal assistance program is eligible for a free cell phone. When filling out the application, you can reference that you have Medicaid.

#### How could a cell phone be useful?

With a cell phone, you are able to:

- Maintain contact with potential employers and employer agencies
- Interview and maintain contact with employees
- Maintain contact with your doctor and schedule appointments
- Maintain contact with your IRIS Consultant
- Keep in touch with friends and family, even if they live far away
- Stay safe in your community with access to an emergency contact
- Have a way to contact your transportation provider

#### Are there any conditions to having a free cell phone?

There is a limit of one account per household and it is required that one maintain a valid United States mailing address. You will also be responsible for certifying your eligibility each year. This is called an Annual Certification and is required by federal regulatory authorities.

#### How do I access a free cell phone?

There are approximately seven companies in Wisconsin who offer free cell phones. You are able to apply online or call to begin the application process. A contact table, including which companies require proof of eligibility documentation, has been provided below:

Company	Website	Phone	Documents required proving eligibility?
Safelink Wireless	<a href="http://www.safelinkwireless.com">www.safelinkwireless.com</a>	1-800-723-3546	No*
Assurance Wireless	<a href="http://www.assurancewireless.com">www.assurancewireless.com</a>	1-888-898-4888	Yes
ReachOut Wireless	<a href="http://www.reachoutwireless.com">www.reachoutwireless.com</a>	1-877-870-9444	Yes
Life Wireless	<a href="http://www.lifewireless.com">www.lifewireless.com</a>	1-888-543-3620	Yes
Budget Mobile	<a href="http://www.budgetmobile.com">www.budgetmobile.com</a>	1-888-424-5588	Yes
Tag Mobile	<a href="http://www.tagmobile.com">www.tagmobile.com</a>	1-866-959-4918	Yes
StandUp Wireless	<a href="http://www.standupwireless.com">www.standupwireless.com</a>	1-800-544-4441	Yes

\* Safelink verifies eligibility directly with the state/federal program providing benefits.

**What can I use as proof of my eligibility?**

Proof of participation in a state or federal assistance program includes:

- A benefit ID card or other program participation: Forward Card (copy of front and back)
- An eligibility letter from an authorized agency: IRIS Start Date Letter
- A benefits statement (current or prior year): Supplemental Security Income statement

Only one of these documents is required as proof of eligibility. Always be sure to send copies of these documents, not the originals.

**What can I expect from my free cell phone?**

Each free phone comes with 250 minutes. It is important to educate yourself on which company will provide the best service for you. Rates to purchase additional minutes will vary by company.

**Questions for my cell phone provider:**