



Connected



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Santel to Negotiate Network Rebroadcast Fees

Santel Communications is once again negotiating the retransmission agreements for our carriage of local networks including KELO (CBS), KDLT (NBC), KSFY (ABC) and Fox. Retransmission agreements grant us permission to re-transmit these stations for a fee when they used to be free for everyone.

Cable TV providers such as Santel offer these networks on our systems for your convenience. If you live close enough to one of their broadcast towers you could possibly get some of these stations free over the air (just like in the “old” days), but you’d need an antenna on your roof and honestly most of them do not have good signal in our part of South Dakota. We don’t believe it’s fair that some viewers are able to watch these stations

for free while others, such as you, are charged rates which continue to increase at a pace much higher than the rate of inflation.

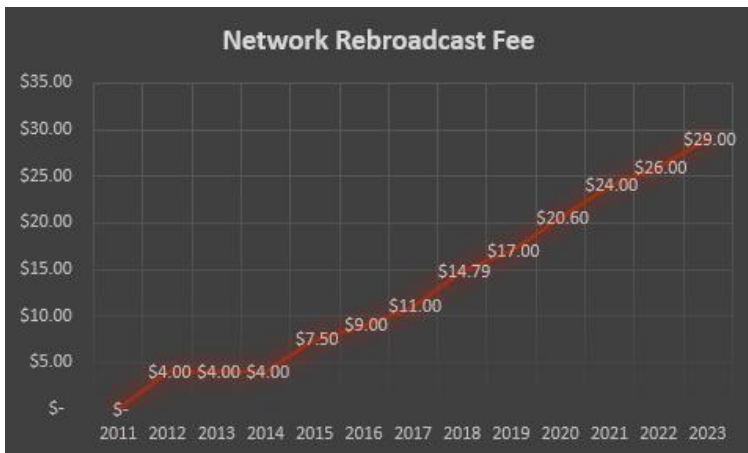
As recently as 2011, Santel customers were able to view these four major networks for free. As of 2023, our network rebroadcast fee is \$29 per month. For customers with our largest (Premier) package, these few channels represent **25%** of the total amount charged for that package.

While we consider KELO, KDLT, KSFY and Fox to be local stations, they are actually owned by outside station groups. For instance, KELO is owned by Nexstar Media; KDLT, KSFY and Fox are all owned by Gray Television. Recently, Nexstar Media has been demanding rate increases as high as 35% in some areas of the country.



35%
Increase in 2024

Please know that Santel values the content provided by these local networks and we know you do too. We will be working hard to negotiate a reasonable rate...as your member-owned cooperative we fight hard for your interests. We will strive to keep the 2024 TV rates as affordable as we possibly can.



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Santel is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

A gallon of milk cost approximately \$3.25 in 2010. Today, it costs \$3.34, an average annual increase of 0.2% from 2010 to 2023. During that same period, local TV station fees increased EVERY year by an average of 21%. If a gallon of milk increased at that same rate, it would cost \$51.24 today.

\$3.25

in 2010



\$51.24

in 2023



Esports: Coming Soon to a School Near You

Esports, short for electronic sports, is a form of competition using video games. Esports often takes the form of organized, multiplayer video game competitions individually or as teams.

Research indicates that esports programs have the potential to positively impact the development of communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills. For many teens who aren't involved in music, theater or athletics, esports gives them the opportunity to use their skills in an environment that promotes mental health and social belonging. These programs have identified students who may have previously felt isolated and left out. Esports provides a multitude of benefits for personal growth and future professional development.

Esports have been around for many years, but the rise in popularity has exploded since the COVID-19 pandemic. It became a social lifeline for students in lockdown and esports clubs launched during that time have become the springboard for school programs. We've seen some schools in our service territory adding esports programs to their districts and we expect that it will only become more popular over the next few years.

Santel Communications is proud to deliver robust fiber-optic Internet to everyone in our service territory. With a Gigabit-capable network, gamers can be assured that both the download and upload speeds necessary for competitive gaming will be there when they need it.

\$ Broadband Assistance Available \$

With inflation soaring, many households can use a little assistance. Because Internet has become more of a necessity than ever before, the federal government has two programs available to assist with the monthly cost. The **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** provides a service discount of \$30 per month. The **Lifeline Program** provides a service discount of \$9.25 per month. To qualify, Santel customers or their dependents must be enrolled in one of several eligible assistance plans (such as SNAP) or be eligible due to household income.


To see if you qualify, go to www.affordableconnectivity.gov or www.lifelinesupport.org. We can also answer questions at 605-796-4411.



Santel proudly supports all of our local schools. Catch all the action on Santel TV channels 90 - 91 and 101 - 108.

Parkston * Mitchell * Mt Vernon
Sanborn Central * Tripp-Delmont
Woonsocket * Wolsley-Wessington
Ethan * Wessington Springs

Watch Santel's on-screen guide for the expected broadcast schedules!



**Pay your bill from anywhere—
It's quick, it's easy and it's free**

eBill Mobile App

With the eBill Mobile app, it's easier than ever to log into your Santel account from anywhere, anytime. Safely and securely make one-time payments or establish auto-pay. View all of your current or past invoices.

Download the eBill Mobile app from the Apple Store or from Google Play. When you open the app, enter your zip code and select Santel Communications as your provider. Enter your username (email address) and the password established for your online Santel account. If you forgot your password or need help with the initial login, please contact customer service at 605-796-4411.