



Your AT&T Landline Choices

FACT SHEET

July 2022

How have my landline choices changed?

AT&T ended the Consumer's Choice plans, Illinois' best local phone deals, in November 2017. Consumer's Choice customers were switched to identical plans that were more expensive, but still cost less than other offers.

A few months before, in July 2017, the Illinois General Assembly passed a rewrite of the state Telecommunications Act, and AT&T successfully lobbied to end the Act's requirement that it offer the three Consumer's Choice plans: Basic, Extra and Plus.

The plans were originally created by CUB in a legal settlement with AT&T about a decade ago, and their prices—all less than \$20—were under a legislatively mandated price freeze. They were the best local phone deals in Illinois, if not the country.

What are my choices now?

Most, if not all, Consumer's Choice customers were automatically switched to alternative AT&T plans. These new offers appeared to be identical to Consumer's Choice plans—except they're more expensive.

Remember that the new plans' prices are not under a price freeze, like the Consumer's Choice plans. The prices have increased in the past, and will probably go up again in the future. Check your bill each month!

Do these plans impact local toll or long-distance calls?

No. These plans are local phone deals, for calls to places within 15 miles from your home (what AT&T labels "Band A" and "Band B" calls). Calls beyond that—local toll (15-40 miles away) and long-distance (40+ miles away)—are not covered by these plans.

Are there other landline choices?

AT&T also markets Complete Choice Enhanced. It's about \$50 per month and includes all local calls and up to 11 calling features.

Am I going to lose my landline?

In addition to eliminating the Consumer's Choice plans in the Illinois Telecom Act, AT&T also successfully lobbied the General Assembly to eliminate the requirement that it offer traditional landline service in its Illinois territory.

However, that does not mean you are losing your landline immediately. AT&T still must get final approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to eliminate traditional landlines for businesses and households in Illinois.

Under the legislation, AT&T has to give customers 255 days notice (roughly eight and a half months) before petitioning the FCC to end landline service in Illinois. After the bill

Plan	Monthly fee		Plan details
Call Plan 30	Downtown Chicago	\$20.25	30 local (bands A and B) calls (to places within 15 miles of your home). Additional local calls are 6 cents each.
	Rest of Chicago and adjacent suburbs	\$23.25	
	Rest of Illinois	\$24.75	
Local Unlimited Package	Downtown Chicago	\$24.75	Unlimited local (bands A and B) calls.
	Rest of Chicago and adjacent suburbs	\$24.75	
	Rest of Illinois	\$24.75	
Flat Rate Package	Downtown Chicago	\$33	Unlimited local calls (bands A and B) and two calling features.
	Rest of Chicago and adjacent suburbs	\$36	
	Rest of Illinois	\$36.75	

Plan availability and prices may change, depending on where you live.