

## Cell Phone Plans

Cell phone plans vary widely in cost and coverage. Initially, you may want to focus on a cheap plan that doesn't require a contract, providing you with flexibility and allowing you to have a phone provider with not a lot of cost. Later, if you want more data or coverage, you can research again.

This website seems really useful: [www.whistleout.com/CellPhones](http://www.whistleout.com/CellPhones)

The site shows various offers, including major and minor providers, with information about coverage based on where you live. (Coverage matters! It doesn't matter how cheap or fancy a plan is, if it doesn't have coverage in your area.) Go to the site and wander around. Insert whether you provide your own phone or not. They do the research for you.

### Questions to consider:

Does this plan come with a phone?

Can I keep my old number, or do I need a new number?

What is the cost per month (for one user or for a family)?

Is there an activation fee?

Is there a cancellation fee?

What limitations are there for talk and text?

Do I have to sign a contract or is it month to month?

How large is the plan (1 or 2 GB plans)?

How is the coverage?

Do you tag on to other major companies (Verizon, Sprint, AT&T or T-Mobile)?

How is the customer service?

Does the company have stores or do I have to order online?

### Real life example:

GG told me that she and her family have a family plan with Cricket (free phones, waived activation fees and multi-line savings). The cost for five lines is \$100 (as of Sept. 2019). It has been cost effective since she and her husband pay for their own phones as well as three children. None of them have iPhones because they aren't as cost effective. Her daughter pays for her own plan. She wanted an iPhone and Verizon coverage. However, due to the cost, her phone is currently disconnected. Her daughter's Verizon plan is \$75/mo unlimited for one line and she pays \$29.95 additional for her iPhone. Remember to shop around!