

**5. EXCHANGE SERVICES**

**5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE (Cont'd)**

**5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

A. Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP)

1. Description

The WTAP is designed to help low income households afford access to local exchange telephone service. The program is only available to customers who meet eligibility requirements established by statute. Residents of Tribal lands can also qualify for the Federal portion of the Lifeline program based on terms and conditions for Tribal Lifeline.

2. Terms and Conditions

a. Certain qualifying residential customers are eligible for service under the WTAP. See the appropriate sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 388-273. If eligible, the program includes the following:

- **Effective August 1, 2012, the federally funded monthly reduction off local exchange telephone service is \$9.25 (ASGFX + ASGF2) for qualified customers. When combined with any applicable state program credits, eligible applicants will receive a discount sufficient to reduce the monthly rate for the lowest available grade of flat rate local exchange telephone service to \$8.00 inclusive of the FCC's End User Access Charge. Where available, single-party service shall qualify as the lowest available flat rate for persons otherwise eligible, who are sixty years of age or older, or who receive medical assistance. This condition is in accordance with WAC 388-273.**
- A waiver of any deposit for local service.
- A 50% reduction in the installation charges associated with installing the access line up to a maximum of \$22.00.

(C)  
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 (C)

3. Monthly Credit

	<b>CREDIT USOC</b>	<b>CREDIT AMOUNT</b>
• Federal credit for the FCC End User Common Line (EUCL)	ASGFX	\$5.77
• Federal credit	ASGF2	<b>3.48 (I)</b>
• State credit	ASGSX	2.50

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 By Mark Reynolds, Director – Washington

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**WN U-40  
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NETWORK SERVICES  
WASHINGTON**

**SECTION 5**  
9th Revised Sheet 48.1  
Cancels 8th Revised Sheet 48.1

**5. EXCHANGE SERVICES**

**5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)**

**B. Tribal Lifeline**

**1. Description**

Tribal Lifeline provides additional lifeline support of up to \$25.00, in addition to the baseline Federal Lifeline support for qualifying low-income individuals living on tribal lands which includes reservation as defined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulations.

**2. Eligibility Requirements**

(C)

a. Tribal Lifeline support is provided to applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established within the guidelines of the Washington Telephone Assistance Program described in 5.2.6.A.

b. In order to qualify for the Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up programs, the applicant must live on Tribal Lands/Reservations and be participating in one of the following **programs:**

(C)

(1) Program requirement as identified by the FCC:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (**BIA**) general assistance programs, (T)
- Tribally administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, (C)
- Head Start programs (**under** income-qualifying standard), (C)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program,
- Medicaid, (C)
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)(fka Food Stamps),** (C)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), (T)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (**Section 8**), (T)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**), (T)
- **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations,** (N)
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).** (N)

(2) **The Lifeline Program is also available to applicants when the household income of the applicant is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.**

(C)  
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(C)

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### 5. EXCHANGE SERVICES

#### 5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

##### 5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

B.2.b. (Cont'd)

(T)

(3) Other qualifying low-income programs in Washington:

- DSHS Chore Services
- Community options Program Entry System
- State Family Assistance
- Refugee Assistance
- General Assistance Programs
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

#### 3. Terms and Conditions

(N)

a. The Company must obtain the customer's signature on a document in which the eligible customer certifies, under penalty of perjury, that such customer receives benefits from at least one of the programs above, and lives on a federally recognized reservation. In addition to identifying the program or programs from which that customer receives benefits, the customer must also agree to notify the Company if that customer ceases to participate in the qualifying program or programs.

(T)

b. Tribal Lifeline benefits apply to the primary flat local residential access line, including Extended Area Service (EAS), mileage charges, zone charges, or other non-discretionary charges associated with basic residential service. The benefit may not bring the basic local residential access line rate below \$1.00 per month.

(T)

c. **A customer is not eligible for Lifeline from the Company if he/she is currently receiving Lifeline credit for service provided by another Eligible Telecommunications Carrier. The program is limited to one federal benefit per household which includes both wireline and wireless service.**

(N)

(N)

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**5. EXCHANGE SERVICES**

**5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**  
**5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**  
 B. Tribal Lifeline (Cont'd)

4. Monthly Credit[1]	CREDIT USOC	CREDIT AMOUNT	(T)
• Flat individual line (1FR)[2]	ASGFT	\$9.02 (R)	
• Federal credit	ASGFR	5.77	
• Federal credit	ASGF2	3.48 (I)	

[1] The ASGFR and ASGF2 credits from the Lifeline Assistance Program totaling \$9.25 apply in addition to the Tribal Lifeline credit. The Tribal Lifeline Credit is up to \$25.00, but no more than necessary to reduce the Tribal Lifeline rate to \$1.00. (C)

[2] The credit amount is calculated by adding the 1FR rate of \$13.50 plus the \$5.77 subscriber line charge together. An ASGFR and ASGF2 credit of \$9.25 is subtracted from the total and the remaining difference less \$1.00 which is the minimum Tribal Lifeline rate allowed, is the credit amount. For example: (\$13.50 + \$5.77 = \$19.27 - \$9.25 = \$10.02 - \$1.00) = \$9.02 credit. (C)

**5. EXCHANGE SERVICES**

**5.2 LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**5.2.6 TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Cont'd)**

**C. Tribal Link Up Program**

Beginning April 1, 2012, non-Tribal Lifeline customers no longer receive Link Up support. Also beginning April 1, 2012, eligible residents of federal Tribal Lands may receive Link Up support to cover 100% of the customary charges up to \$100.00 in connection with commencing telecommunications service to the qualifying customer's principal place of residence on Tribal Lands. Tribal Link Up applies to qualifying low-income residence customers of the Company who apply for basic residential service and who meet the eligibility criteria established by the Federal Communications Commission. The customer may defer payment on up to \$200.00 of the above charges without interest for a period not to exceed one year. The deferred charges do not include the deposit if required. (T)

An eligible resident of Tribal Lands may receive the benefit of the Tribal Link Up program for a second or subsequent time only for otherwise qualifying commencement of telecommunications service at a principal place of residence with an address different from the address for which Tribal Link Up assistance was provided previously. (T)

**CREDIT  
 USOC**

Tribal Link Up Credit LNK/ LNCEL (N)

**D. Application of Telephone Assistance Programs on Concession Accounts (N)**

**1. Description**

**Concession groups: These individuals will receive 100% TAP benefits less the amount of concession-able discount. For example, if the person receives a 50% discount on their End User Common Line Charges, they will receive 50% of their TAP benefits. (N)**