

1 **Commission Staff Draft Rules**

2 March 23, 2001

3
4 WAC 480-122-010 Definitions.

5 For purposes of this chapter:

6 (1) "Local exchange company" means a telecommunications company providing
7 local exchange telecommunications service.

8 (2) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

9 (3) "Washington telephone assistance program" means: **the program of local**
10 **exchange service discounts administered by the department.**

11 ~~(a) A discount on residential service connection fees of fifty percent;~~

12 ~~(b) A waiver of the deposit on local residential exchange service;~~

13 ~~(c) A discounted flat rate on one access line for local residential exchange~~
14 ~~service for eligible persons subscribing to the lowest available local exchange flat~~
15 ~~rate service, where that rate, including any federal end user access charge or~~
16 ~~other charge necessary to obtain local exchange service, is greater than the~~
17 ~~telephone assistance rate set by the commission. Where available, single party~~
18 ~~service shall qualify as the lowest available flat rate for persons otherwise~~
19 ~~eligible, who are sixty years of age or older, or who receive~~
20 ~~medical assistance.~~

21 ~~(4) "Eligible person" means an adult recipient of department-administered~~
22 ~~programs for the financially needy which provide continuing financial or medical~~
23 ~~assistance, food stamps, or supportive services to persons in their own homes.~~

24 ~~The department shall notify the participants of their eligibility.~~

25 ~~(5) "Eligibility period" means a one-year period of eligibility as certified by the~~
26 ~~department. The eligibility~~

27 ~~period shall run from July 1 through June 30 of the succeeding year.~~

28 ~~(6) "Charge necessary to obtain local exchange service" means the charge for~~
29 ~~the lowest available grade of residential flat rate service, any federal end user~~
30 ~~access charge, any charge for nonoptional extended area service and any~~

31 charge for nonoptional mileage. It does not include any charge for customer
32 premises equipment or any applicable taxes.

33 (4) "Switched access line" means, **for the purpose of applying the telephone**
34 **assistance program excise tax**, a communication facility extending from a
35 serving central office to a customer's premises to provide access to and from the
36 switched telecommunications network for message toll service and local calling.
37 When used with PBX or Centrex-CU a switched access line may also be referred
38 to as a trunk.

39 ~~(8) "Connection fees" means any service charge applicable to the connection of~~
40 ~~a switched access line to establish new service, but not including line extension~~
41 ~~charges or any delinquent balance owed to the local exchange company.~~

42 (5) Radio communications service company has the meaning found in
43 80.04.010 RCW, except that for the purposes of this section it includes only
44 those companies providing two-way voice communication as a common
45 carrier.

46

47 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-
48 900462), §

49 480-122-010, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
50 No. U-87-1102-R), §

51 480-122-010, filed 10/1/87.]

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54 WAC 480-122-020 Washington telephone assistance program rate. The
55 commission shall set by order the telephone assistance rate to be paid by
56 program participants for local service. **Every eligible telecommunications**
57 **carrier (ETC) must offer the telephone assistance rates and discounts in**
58 **accordance with RCW 80.36.410 through 475. Every non-ETC local**
59 **exchange company must offer the telephone assistance rates and**
60 **discounts in accordance with RCW 80.36.410 through 475 when 100 or**
61 **more of its access lines are subscribed to for residential service. Radio**

62 **communications service companies that are not ETCs may offer the**
63 **telephone assistance rates and discounts in accordance with RCW**
64 **80.36.410 through 475.**

65
66 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 98-18-106 (Order R-449, Docket No. UT-
67 971664), §
68 480-122-020, filed 9/2/98, effective 10/3/98; 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No.
69 UT-900462), §
70 480-122-020, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
71 No. U-87-1102-R), §
72 480-122-020, filed 10/1/87.]

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74 WAC 480-122-030 Connection fees.

75 ~~Eligible persons shall receive a fifty percent discount on service connection fees.~~
76 ~~Any connection fee discounts available from other programs shall be added to~~
77 ~~the telephone assistance discount, thus paying part or all of the remaining fee.~~
78 ~~The service connection fee remaining after application of the discount shall be~~
79 ~~payable in no fewer than three installments. A subscriber may choose to pay the~~
80 ~~connection fee in a lump sum. Eligible persons shall be allowed one connection~~
81 ~~fee discount per eligibility period.~~

82
83 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-
84 900462), §
85 480-122-030, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
86 No. U-87-1102-R), §
87 480-122-030, filed 10/1/87.]

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93 WAC 480-122-040 Deposit waiver.
94 ~~A local exchange company shall waive the deposit on local exchange service for~~
95 ~~eligible persons. Eligible persons shall be allowed one deposit waiver per~~
96 ~~eligibility period.~~

97
98 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-
99 1102-R), §
100 480-122-040, filed 10/1/87.]

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103 WAC 480-122-050 Other charges.

104 No change of service charge shall be charged to a program participant for the
105 establishment of service under the telephone assistance program.

106

107 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-
108 900462), §
109 480-122-050, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
110 No. U-87-1102-R), §
111 480-122-050, filed 10/1/87.]

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114 WAC 480-122-060 Telephone assistance excise tax.

115 ~~Beginning November 1, 1992,~~ **Wireline** local exchange companies shall collect a
116 telephone assistance excise tax on all switched access lines of ~~thirteen cents per~~
117 ~~month~~ **in an amount set by the commission by order at the request of the**
118 **department.** Each party line subscriber **customer** shall be assessed the
119 telephone assistance excise tax in full. The telephone assistance excise tax shall
120 be separately identified on each ratepayer's bill as the "Washington telephone
121 assistance program." Money collected from the telephone assistance excise tax
122 shall be transferred to a telephone assistance fund administered by the
123 department.

124

125 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-20-031 (Order R-377, Docket No. UT-
126 920696), §
127 480-122-060, filed 9/28/92, effective 10/29/92; 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket
128 No. UT-900462), §
129 480-122-060, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 89-11-020 (Order R-300, Docket
130 No. U-89-2754-R), §
131 480-122-060, filed 5/11/89; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause No. U-87-1102-R), §
132 480-122-060, filed
133 10/1/87.]

134

135 ~~WAC 480-122-070 Recovery of costs. Local exchange companies shall recover~~
136 ~~to the maximum extent possible by a waiver of all or part of the federal end user~~
137 ~~access charge and, to the extent necessary, from the telephone assistance fund~~
138 ~~administered by the department the following amounts: (1) The difference~~
139 ~~between the telephone assistance rate set by the commission by order under~~
140 ~~WAC 480-122-020 and the lowest available local exchange service flat rate, as~~
141 ~~specified in WAC 480-122-010 (3)(c);~~
142 ~~(2) The discounted portion of the service connection fees;~~
143 ~~(3) Applicable taxes not billed to the subscriber;~~
144 ~~(4) Net uncollectibles directly resulting from the waiver of local exchange service~~
145 ~~deposits for eligible subscribers, provided that any partial payment collected for~~
146 ~~disconnected accounts shall be applied first to the payment of the local service~~
147 ~~bill; with the total for any account not to exceed two times the telephone~~
148 ~~assistance rate; and~~
149 ~~(5) Administrative and program expenses incurred in offering the telephone~~
150 ~~assistance program, as authorized by the department.~~

151

152 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 98-18-106 (Order R-449, Docket No. UT-
153 971664), §

154 480-122-070, filed 9/2/98, effective 10/3/98; 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No.
155 UT-900462), §

156 480-122-070, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
157 No. U-87-1102-R), §

158 480-122-070, filed 10/1/87.]

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161 WAC 480-122-080 Accounting.

162 Local exchange companies shall maintain their accounting records so that
163 expenses associated with the telephone assistance program can be separately
164 identified. Only the unwaived portion of the federal end user access charge shall
165 be shown on the ratepayer's bill.

166

167 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-
168 900462), §

169 480-122-080, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
170 No. U-87-1102-R), §

171 480-122-080, filed 10/1/87.]

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174 WAC 480-122-090 Administration.

175 ~~(1) A local exchange company shall not extend telephone assistance program~~
176 ~~benefits to any person for any period prior to the earlier of:~~

177 ~~(a) The date on which the local exchange company first receives from said~~
178 ~~person written evidence of his status as an eligible subscriber; or~~

179 ~~(b) The date on which the local exchange company first receives confirmation~~
180 ~~from the department that said person is an eligible subscriber.~~

181 ~~(2) A local exchange company shall not continue telephone assistance program~~
182 ~~benefits to any person for whom renewed certification has not been received by~~
183 ~~the company from the department beyond the expiration of the eligibility period~~
184 ~~for which the company has most recently received certification.~~

185

186 [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 90-19-020 (Order R-328, Docket No. UT-
187 900462), §

188 480-122-090, filed 9/11/90, effective 10/12/90; 87-20-043 (Order R-277, Cause
189 No. U-87-1102-R), §

190 480-122-090, filed 10/1/87.]