

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES



June 30, 2003

Dear Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) participant,

Our records show that you are using the WTAP program. This letter explains some important changes.

More people have been using WTAP and program costs are now higher. We have been making changes to reduce costs, but we now must also raise the amount you pay (your \$4.00 co-pay) each month for phone service.

We will soon be asking the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to raise the WTAP co-pay to \$9.00 a month plus taxes. If this is approved, the new rate will start on August 1, 2003.

The change must be approved by the WUTC before it takes effect. They will take comments in writing and hold a public meeting.

To find out more or get on the mailing list, contact the WUTC at:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98501-7250
Toll-free number: 1-800-562-6150
Fax: (360) 664-3604
E-mail: comments@wutc.wa.gov.

We also want you to know about a new state law. It helps people who qualify for WTAP but have had phone service disconnected because of past due balances. They are now able to get basic local phone service if they agree to pay their co-pay plus one and half times their co-pay each month. This extra amount will be used to pay back the phone company.

We know WTAP services are important to you. WTAP helps you keep in touch with each other and with your doctor, daycare and emergency services.

If you have any questions about these changes, call the DSHS/WTAP office toll-free at 1-888-700-8880.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Masten, Director
Community Services Division
Department of Social and Health Services