

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Approving ) DOCKET UT-990429  
The Department of Health Services )  
Washington Telephone Assistance Program ) ORDER DETERMINING  
Threshold Rate ) THESHOLD RATE  
.....)

The Federal Communications Commission Order 97-157, issued May 8, 1997, revised Lifeline program funding available to all states. Lifeline customers in Washington state are supported through a program administered by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP). The FCC Order adopted the Joint Board's recommendation regarding federal Lifeline support amounts.

On March 15, 1999, the Commission received notification by DSHS of the agency intention to receive maximum federal funding for the WTAP program and address an existing program fund surplus. DSHS requested a program reduction in the WTAP client threshold rate. The reduction by \$3.50 will allow receipt of federal matching funds to bring the federal support for WTAP to \$7.00 per client, the maximum available. The DSHS WTAP client threshold rate amount will be reduced to \$4.00 per month per client to address the federal program fund availability, reduce a WTAP budget surplus and directly provide more generous program benefits to clients. DSHS program implementation will become effective July 1, 1999.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the Department of Social and Health Services Washington Telephone Assistance Program shall implement the FCC Order 97-157, reducing the program rate to receive federal support monies, reduce the Washington Telephone Assistance Program fund surplus and provide additional program benefits to clients. The threshold rate will be revised to \$4.00 per month per client with implementation July 1, 1999 for clients eligible under RCW 80.36.450 and RCW 80.36.470.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this                      day of April, 1999.

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Secretary