

## What kind of telephone equipment will TEPP allow me to buy?

Some common examples are:

- ☎ TTY
- ☎ Amplified telephone
- ☎ Amplified handset or headset
- ☎ TTY with Braille or large visual display
- ☎ TTY modem and software
- ☎ VCO, HCO or CapTel<sup>1</sup> telephone
- ☎ Hands-free speaker telephone
- ☎ Telephone signaling system, and
- ☎ Other specialized equipment may be approved on an individual basis

## How do I apply or get answers to my questions?

Go on-line at: <https://tepp.wipfli.com> to fill out an application or click on “TEPP Information” to print an application or find answers to your questions. You can also get an application or ask questions by calling or writing:

**Public Service Commission**  
**P.O. Box 7854**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7854**

☎ (608) 267-1479 TTY  
☎ (800) 251-8345 TTY  
☎ (608) 231-3305 Voice  
☎ (608) 266-3957 Fax  
[pscrecs@psc.state.wi.us](mailto:pscrecs@psc.state.wi.us) E-Mail

<sup>1</sup> Information on voice carry-over (VCO) and hearing carry-over (HCO) services can be obtained from the Wisconsin TRS by calling 1-800-283-9877 (TTY) or 1-800-395-9877 (voice).

## Where do I send my TEPP form

**USF Administrator**  
**Wipfli LLP**  
**P.O. Box 8700**  
**Madison, WI 53708-8700**

☎ (608) 274-1980 Voice  
☎ (608) 274-4448 TTY  
☎ (608) 274-8085 Fax  
[TEPP@Wipfli.com](mailto:TEPP@Wipfli.com) E-Mail

## When will I receive the voucher?

It can take several weeks from the time you mail an application to when you receive your voucher in the mail. It also takes longer if you apply for TAP.

## How do I use a TEPP voucher?

Choose your equipment and where you want to buy it. Use the voucher (like a check) to pay a TEPP vendor for your qualifying special equipment. You pay: 1) \$100 (unless TAP qualified or using an HH voucher), 2) for any purchase amount over the total of the voucher plus your \$100, and 3) for any non-qualifying items purchased. Vouchers must be used within 120 days (4 months) of the date issued or they expire.



PSC of Wisconsin 12/2009

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**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**OF WISCONSIN**

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*Would some special equipment help you make better personal use of the telephone?*

# TEPP

## Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program

*....is the way to get telephone equipment you need at a reasonable cost.*

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## What is the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)?

The TEPP helps people with disabilities buy equipment they need in order to use basic telephone services. The TEPP is paid for by the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund (USF) established by the Public Service Commission. Money is collected from Wisconsin telephone service providers to fund the USF.

### This sounds too good to be true!

#### What's the catch?

There is NO CATCH. All you do is fill out an application on-line or send in the simple application form.

#### **TEPP requires that an applicant:**

- Be a Wisconsin resident.
- Be a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or mobility or motion impaired.
- Needs special equipment to use the telephone in the home or when traveling (like a TTY, amplification, visual alert system, etc.).

There is no age or income limit, but an individual can only get a TEPP voucher once every three years for the same type of disability.

## How much will TEPP pay?

The amount depends on your disability. On the application form, you must identify which disability affects your telephone use. You will be mailed a voucher (like a check) for the amount based on your disability category.

### **Below are the voucher amounts for each category of disability:**

Type of disability	Amount
Hard of Hearing (HH) (No co-payment required for HH vouchers)	\$ 100
Deaf/Severely HH	800
Speech Impaired	1,600
Mobility/Motion Impaired	1,600
Deaf with Low Vision	2,500
Deaf and Blind	7,200



## How much do I have to pay?

You pay the first \$100 (except for HH vouchers). The voucher pays the rest, up to the maximum voucher amount. If you buy equipment that costs more than the voucher plus your \$100, you also pay the extra charges. For example, if you are deaf or severely hard-of-hearing, you can get a voucher for \$800. If you buy equipment with a total cost of \$918, you will pay \$118.

### What if I can't afford the \$100?

The Telecommunication Assistance Program (TAP) may be able to pay the \$100. TAP is a program of the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Department of Health & Family Services). TAP is only for persons who are deaf or severely hard of hearing in a low-income household. TAP funds pay the \$100 TEPP co-payment if you qualify.

### How do I get TAP to pay the \$100?

The TEPP and TAP application form are combined. For TAP, you must also fill out the household income lines and send a hearing loss certificate. You must add up all income for everyone living in your house. If your total household income meets the TAP income limits, your application will automatically be processed for a TEPP and TAP voucher so your voucher may include the \$100 co-payment. **For questions on TAP, contact:** Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (608) 266-3118 Voice/TTY.