

# I'm interested! What's next?

To apply, download or access the application from the [TEPP website](#). You can also mail the application to:

**WI USF Administrator**  
Solix, Inc.  
10 Lanidex Plaza West  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Applications are processed in the order they are received, and vouchers are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Please allow up to 4 weeks for an application to be processed. Processing time can take longer by mail and if you apply for TAP funding to cover the \$100 co-payment.



## Eligible equipment

Equipment not on this list may be covered, but will require pre-approval and will only be considered on a case-by-case basis:

*Amplified telephone*

*Amplified handset or headset*

*Captioned/VCO telephone*

*Eye Gaze*

*Hands-free speaker telephone*

*Mobile phone*

*Refreshable Braille display*

*Speech Amplified telephone*

*Tablet*

*Telephone signaling system/flasher*



## TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM



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**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

North Tower, 6th Floor  
Hill Farms State Office Building  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 231-3305 Voice  
(888) 816-3831 Toll-Free Voice  
[psc.wi.gov](http://psc.wi.gov)

### Ready to apply?

Visit the [TEPP website](#) for more information, **apply for a TEPP voucher**, or to **check the status** of a TEPP application or voucher.



SEARCH ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) is an independent regulatory agency dedicated to serving the public interest. Since 1907, the agency is responsible for the regulation of Wisconsin public and private utilities.

1/31/2024

Los equipos que se muestran aquí son ejemplos de algunos de los productos elegibles disponibles y no representan todos los equipos elegibles. Los proveedores y productos aprobados por el Programa de Compra de Equipos de Telecomunicaciones (Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program, TEPP) varían y están sujetos a cambios. La Comisión de Servicios Públicos (Public Service Commission, PSC) no respalda ni recomienda productos.

The **Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)** is a program that helps people with disabilities to buy specialized equipment they need in order to use basic telephone services. Financial assistance is provided to help offset the cost.

TEPP is funded by the **Wisconsin Universal Service Fund (USF)**, established by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC). Services made possible through the USF are funded by Wisconsin telephone providers which helps pay for the equipment.

To receive financial assistance for purchasing telecommunications equipment, an application must be submitted for approval. **To be eligible, you must also meet all of the following criteria:**

- 1 Be a **Wisconsin resident**.
- 2 Be a person who is **Hard of Hearing, Severely Hard of Hearing or Deaf, has a Speech Disability, or has a Mobility/Motion Disability**.
- 3 Have a need for special equipment in order to **communicate** in the home or when traveling.

**Take note:**

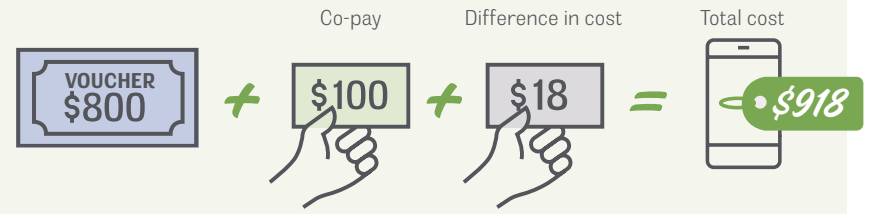
- Only **one TEPP voucher per person every three years** for the same disability is allowed.
- There is **no limit for age or income** to be eligible.

## How much do I have to pay?

You are responsible for a **\$100 co-pay**. The voucher pays for the rest!\* If you choose to purchase equipment that costs more than the voucher amount and \$100 co-pay, you are responsible for the difference in cost.

**EXAMPLE**

If your disability category is **Deaf or Severely Hard of Hearing**, you qualify for a **\$800 voucher**. If the equipment you wish to purchase costs \$918, **your total out-of-pocket cost is \$118**.



\*Up to the maximum voucher amount.

*What does the process look like?*

- 1 Apply for the TEPP voucher.
- 2 Contact an approved TEPP vendor and select qualifying equipment.
- 3 Use the approved voucher to purchase your equipment; and
- 4 Pay \$100 co-pay and any additional out-of-pocket costs (if applicable).
- 5 Receive new equipment!

## Vouchers explained

The qualified amount is based on your disability. You must first identify on the application form your disability category. This will determine which voucher amount you are eligible for. Vouchers are mailed once the application is approved.

| DISABILITY CATEGORY                                    | VOUCHER AMOUNT |
|--|----------------|
| Hard of Hearing <i>(no co-payment required)</i>        | \$100          |
| Severely Hard of Hearing or Deaf                       | \$800          |
| Speech Disability                                      | \$1,600        |
| Mobility or Motion Disability                          | \$1,600        |
| Severely Hard of Hearing or Deaf <b>and</b> Low Vision | \$2,500        |
| Severely Hard of Hearing or Deaf <b>and</b> Blind      | \$7,200        |

**Did you know?**

Your voucher pays for the equipment of your choice, and USF reimburses the TEPP vendor the approved voucher amount.

*What if I can't afford the \$100 co-pay?*

The **Telecommunications Assistance Program (TAP)** may be able to pay the \$100 co-pay. TAP is a funding program of the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Department of Health Services). Only persons who are Deaf or Severely Hard of Hearing in a low-income household are eligible.

If your total household income meets the TAP income criteria, and you provide proof of hearing loss, TAP funds will provide the \$100 co-pay.

For more information or to apply for the TAP, visit [dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/tap.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/odhh/tap.htm) to access/download the application, or you can contact the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing directly by calling **(608) 267-7195**.

Vouchers must be used within 120 days (4 months) of the date issued or they expire.