

# Election Process Office Hours

## Affordable Connectivity Program

January 5, 2022



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

# Housekeeping

- USAC will walk through some slides and then take questions
- We'll answer questions both verbally and through the questions feature
- We'll answer as many questions as we can during today's session

# ACP Election Process



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# Get Started in ACP

(For providers who did not participate in EBB)

- Register with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) (to register, follow [this SAM.gov guide](#)).\* USAC cannot process reimbursement without an active SAM.gov registration.
- Obtain a [Federal Communications Commission Registration Number](#) (FRN)\*
- Submit an application for [FCC approval to participate in the program](#) (only applicable to non-ETCs; ETCs can submit their ETC designation directly to USAC with their election)
- Submit an ACP [election notice](#) to USAC

# Submit ACP Election Notice and Documentation

(For providers who did not participate in EBB)

Submit an ACP [election notice](#) and documentation including:

- FCC approval of your company's participation in the ACP (required for non-ETCs and ETCs that wish to participate in states outside their ETC designation)
- ETC designation(s) (required for ETCs)
- Description of broadband service offerings (required for all providers)
- Connected device documentation (if applicable).

\*The ACP election process is subject to change when the FCC issues ACP rules in January 2022.



# ACP Election Process FAQs



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# Election Process FAQs – General Questions

## **When can we submit documentation for the ACP election process?**

USAC began accepting ACP elections and documentation on December 27, 2021.

## **Are ETCs required to participate in ACP?**

ETCs are not required to participate in ACP. EBB Program participating providers automatically transitioned to the ACP on December 31, 2021. EBB Program participating providers who do not want to participate in ACP should email [ACProgram@usac.org](mailto:ACProgram@usac.org) to inform USAC of their withdrawal from the program.

## **Is there a deadline for submitting an election form for ACP?**

There is not a deadline to submit an election notice for ACP. ACP elections are reviewed and approved on a rolling basis.

# Election Process FAQs – Eligible Plans & Devices

## **What packages can we offer with ACP? Any package?**

The initial FCC Public Notice from Nov 18, 2021 removes the December 1, 2020 service offering requirement and imposes a new requirement that providers must allow eligible households to apply the ACP benefit to any of its internet service offerings at the same rates and terms available to other households. This is dependent on the final ACP rules published by the FCC. Until the rules are enacted, providers who participated in EBB can offer their EBB Program service plans and any of their other internet service offerings on a voluntary basis.

## **On Section B of the election form, “does your company plan to offer connected devices?” can a company answer “no” for now and change the answer later? If a change needs to be made, how can we do that?**

Providers may opt to not offer a connect device now and decide to offer one later on. Providers should email [ACProgram@usac.org](mailto:ACProgram@usac.org) to inform USAC of their intention to offer a connected device and include the required documentation.



# Election Process FAQs – Existing EBB Providers

## **Do new plan offerings need to be added to the election notice?**

Existing providers do not need to submit documentation or otherwise update service offerings with USAC. However, the FCC announced they may require service providers to notify USAC of any changes to service offerings and device offerings. This is dependent on the final guidance published by the FCC.

## **May we change devices or do we need authorization for providing a different model or device?**

Providers may make amendments to their connected device offerings. Providers should email [ACProgram@usac.org](mailto:ACProgram@usac.org) to inform USAC of the changes to their connected device offerings and include the required documentation for new devices.

## **Can we change the price offered to customers? If so, how do we notify USAC of this change?**

Currently, existing EBB providers do not need to update service offerings with USAC. However, the FCC may require additional election information from existing providers after the enactment of final program rules.

# Election Process FAQs – Election Form

## **Is there a specific form from the FCC needed for new ACP providers to sign up for an ETC designation?**

The FCC does not have an ACP specific form for ETC designation. Providers must be designated as an ETC by their respective state regulatory commission or, in some cases, by the FCC. The FCC does have a process to grant non-ETC providers approval to participation in the ACP. Information can be found on the FCC's [website](#).

## **On the election form, there is no form that asks for the SAM account number; how do we provide our SAM information to USAC?**

The election form collects the DUNS number. USAC will use the DUNS number to validate the SAM registration.

## **On the election form, what does the “is your company facility based” question mean?**

Facility-based providers maintain their own technology and connect individuals to the internet by maintaining a connection from that individual's home to the main internet pipeline.



**Questions?**

# Service Providers: Stay Informed About ACP

- Visit [USAC.org](https://www.usac.org) to follow ACP updates
- Sign up for [ACP updates](#) and select the information you'd like to receive
- Visit the [FCC website](#) for additional program information
- FCC guidance orders:
  - 11/26: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/wcb-issues-guidance-transition-affordable-connectivity-program>
  - 12/8: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-issues-further-guidance-affordable-connectivity-program>
  - 12/30: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-provides-additional-guidance-affordable-connectivity-program>



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