

Affordable Connectivity Program: Overview



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Meet Our Team

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Agenda

1 | **Program Overview**

2 | **Who is Eligible**

3 | **How to Enroll**

4 | **Consumer Support**



Program Overview



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Overview of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) modifies and extends the existing Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program and will help low-income households pay for broadband service and connected internet devices.

\$14.2B

in additional funding appropriated by Congress into the Affordable Connectivity Fund

\$30

per month is the new standard ACP benefit amount for households

\$75

per month is the enhanced support ACP benefit for households located on qualifying Tribal lands

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

Consumer benefit overview

Eligible subscribers can receive:



Standard Broadband Services Discount

ACP households can receive up to \$30/month discount for broadband services.



Tribal Discount

ACP households located on Tribal lands can receive up to \$75/month discount for broadband service.



Device Reimbursement

A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet supplied through a participating provider (consumer co-pay of more than \$10 and less than \$50 required).



Not every company offers device discounts. Consumers should reach out to a service provider to understand if they offer devices.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

Consumer benefit overview

- The ACP benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per eligible household
 - Consumers who received a device through the EBB Program are not eligible for a device in the ACP

ACP Household Eligibility

The FCC is seeking comment on the one-per household limitation for the ACP. The EBB Program one-per household rules apply to ACP enrollees until the FCC issues new rules or guidance.

- “Household” is defined as a group of people who live together and share income or expenses, whether related or not
- If more than one household receiving an ACP benefit resides at an address, consumers must complete an Independent Economic Household worksheet or service provider equivalent process to show eligibility for the ACP

Households that are eligible for ACP and Lifeline may apply for and receive both benefits on the same or separate service

Timeline

EBB Program to ACP Transition

November	November 15	President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act
	November 18	FCC released a Public Notice , opening the public comment period on the ACP
December	December 15	USAC hosts ACP Overview training
	December 30 at 6pm Eastern	EBB Program enrollments close
	December 31	ACP enrollments begin; start of 60-day transition period for legacy EBB Program households.
January	Mid-January	FCC expected to issue rules for ACP
March	March 1	60-day transition for legacy EBB Program households ends

Who is Eligible



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Eligibility Criteria (1 of 3)

The ACP has different eligibility criteria than the EBB Program. Households can qualify for the ACP by showing that at least one member of their household meets one of the following criteria:

- Participates in the FCC's [Lifeline Program](#)
- Has household income at or below **200%** of federal poverty limit (level adjusted from EBB)
- Participates in a Lifeline-qualifying government program
- Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year
- Participates in free & reduced-price school lunch program or school breakfast program
- Participates in the Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Woman, Infants and Children (**WIC**) – New for ACP
- Qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income program, subject to FCC approval of that provider's eligibility process

*Before the end of the 60-day transition period, EBB-enrolled households that qualified for the EBB Program through eligibility criteria that are not applicable to the ACP will be required to demonstrate their eligibility to receive an ACP benefit after the transition period ends on March 1, 2022. The FCC expects this requirement will affect only a small number of households currently enrolled in the EBB Program.

Eligibility Criteria: Lifeline-Qualifying Government Programs (2 of 3)

Households can qualify for the ACP by showing that at least one member of their household participates in one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit
- Tribal Programs for Residents for Qualifying Tribal Lands
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Tribal Head Start (only those households meeting its income qualifying standard)
 - Food Distribution Program on Tribal Reservations

Eligibility Criteria (3 of 3)

Households **cannot** use the below criteria to qualify for ACP as they did for the EBB Program:

- x A substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020
- x Participation in a provider's COVID-19 program

Benefit Qualifying Person (BQP)

- Households can qualify for the ACP through an eligible child or dependent (Benefit Qualifying Person or BQP)
 - For example, a household member with a child or dependent who is approved for the free and reduced-price school lunch program or school breakfast program or who attends a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school is eligible for the ACP
 - Documentation of enrollment in a CEP School or in a free & reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program will be required to demonstrate eligibility. For example, households could provide a report card or a letter from the school to demonstrate that the student is enrolled in a CEP school

The application should be completed by an adult member of the household, identifying the child or dependent as the BQP



Questions?

How to Enroll



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Application Process (1 of 2)

Option 1:

Apply with a Service Provider

- The consumer contacts a service provider
- The service provider helps the consumer apply in person using the National Verifier service provider portal

OR

- The service provider helps the consumer apply using their FCC approved alternative verification process

Option 2:

Apply Online

- The consumer visits the National Verifier website from any computer or mobile device to complete the electronic application

AND

- The consumer contacts a service provider to enroll in the ACP

Option 3:

Apply by Mail

- The consumer fills out and signs the National Verifier ACP Application Form
- The consumer mails the application and supporting documentation to the Support Center
- Service providers may assist consumers with the paper application and mail it on the consumer's behalf

Supporting Consumers



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EBB Program to ACP Transition

- The Infrastructure Act provides for a 60-day transition period for households that qualified for the EBB Program prior to the effective date of ACP:
 - Existing EBB Program subscribers will continue to receive their monthly benefit at the EBB support level through the 60-day window
 - Households enrolled in the EBB Program as of December 31, 2021 based on criteria that still qualify for the ACP will not be required to submit a new application to enroll in ACP
 - Before the end of the 60-day transition period, EBB-enrolled households that qualified for the EBB Program through eligibility criteria that are not applicable to ACP will be required to demonstrate their eligibility to receive an ACP benefit after the transition period ends. This will only impact a small number of EBB consumers who qualified through substantial loss of income or a service provider's approved COVID-19 Program

EBB Program to ACP Transition

- The FCC is seeking comment on the rules and administration of the ACP. The FCC is expected to release an ACP Report and Order in mid-January 2022 which will provide expanded detail on Program rules

Consumer Support

- Consumers will be able to apply to ACP starting **December 31, 2021**
- Before December 31, visit the [FCC's website](#) for program updates
- The website for ACP will go live next week

Questions? USAC's ACP Support Center will be taking questions starting December 31. High call volumes are expected, and we appreciate your patience.



Questions?



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