



FCC Issues Guidance for ACP Interim Rules, Waives ACP January Snapshot

January 4, 2022

On December 30, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued additional Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) [guidance](#) to help service providers transitioning from the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) to the ACP and those providers who are considering participating in ACP.

ACP Interim Rules

In the FCC guidance, the FCC clarifies that current EBB Program rules will remain in effect for the ACP until the new rules adopted by the FCC for the ACP become effective, except where noted in the guidance. For example, the statutory changes to the eligibility criteria for the ACP are in effect. Starting December 31, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a qualifying program and the income eligibility has increased to 200% of the Federal poverty level. Households cannot qualify for ACP based on substantial loss of income or participation in a provider's approved COVID-19 program.

Moreover, for this interim period between when the ACP started and when the new rules for the ACP are in effect, providers should not consider the results of a credit check before deciding to enroll a household in the ACP. Service providers should also continue to follow EBB Program rules that prohibit providers from:

- Denying ACP enrollment to eligible households based on any past or present arrearages;
- Requiring the household to pay an early termination fee if the household enters into a contract for an ACP service and later terminates that contract; or
- Subjecting the household to a mandatory waiting period based on the household having previously received service from that provider.

ACP January Reimbursement Snapshot Postponed

The FCC waived the January 1 snapshot for the ACP, meaning ACP service providers will submit their first ACP reimbursement claims based on the February 1 snapshot date. The January data month will include consumers enrolled beginning December 31, 2021. Service providers will submit their initial ACP reimbursement claims based on the February 1 snapshot and must submit and certify those claims by February 15 to receive ACP reimbursement.

This waiver does not affect claims for legacy EBB households. Providers serving legacy EBB households will continue to have a January 1, 2022 snapshot for the December 2021 data month, a February 1, 2022 snapshot for the January 2022 data month, and a March 1, 2022 snapshot for the February 2022 data month.

Providers enrolling new ACP households or continuing to serve legacy EBB households during the 60-day transition period remain subject to FCC audit and enforcement authority.

Need Help? Contact Us!

For questions about the Affordable Connectivity Program, service providers can visit [USAC.org](https://www.usac.org) and consumers should visit [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org). For general program support, service providers should email ACProgram@usac.org and consumers should email ACPSupport@usac.org. Both providers and consumers may also call the ACP Support Center at 877-384-2575 for assistance.