Affordable Connectivity Program

FCC ACP — Affordable Connectivity Program
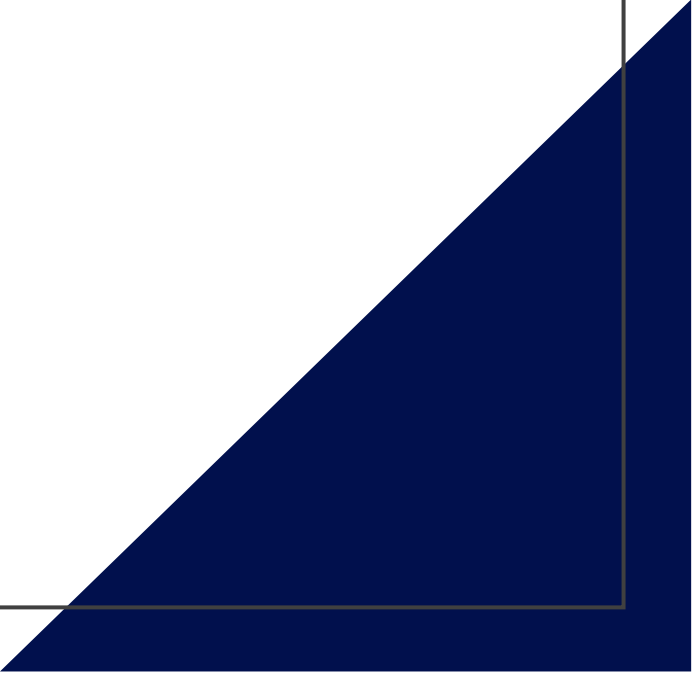
Sherry Ross

Attorney Advisor

Telecommunications Access and Policy Division

Wireline Competition Bureau

Federal Communications Commission

AGENDA

- Affordable Connectivity Program Background and Benefit Amount
- Program Eligibility
- Tribal Eligibility
- How to Enroll
- Enhancement
- Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program
- Affordable Connectivity Pilot Programs

Affordable Connectivity Program

Background

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that provides eligible low-income households a discount off their monthly broadband service and a one-time discount off a connected device. The program is a successor of the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which also offered discounted monthly broadband service and a one-time connected device discount. The ACP launched on December 31, 2021, and was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provided $14.2 billion to fund the program.

Benefit Amount

The ACP benefit provides an eligible household a monthly service discount of up to $30 a month for broadband service, or up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time connected device discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating providers if the household contributes more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price of the device.

There are currently over 1800 providers in the program and nearly 18 million household enrolled in the program.

Eligible Households

A household is eligible if:

Household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or

If a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Participates in SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;

- Participates in one of these Tribal specific programs and lives on qualifying Tribal lands: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Head Start (income based);

- Participates in Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including the USDA Community Eligibility Provision schools;

- Received a Pell Grant during the current award year;

- Receives Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit; or

- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.
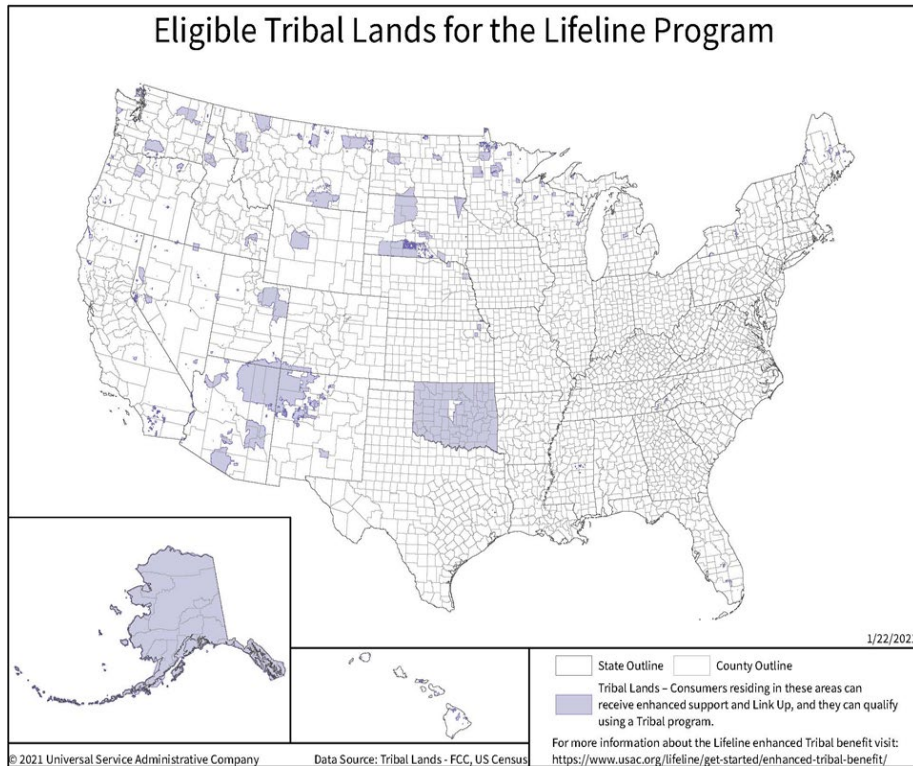
Eligible Tribal Lands for the Lifeline Program

Illustration of Tribal lands on the nationwide map

Eligible Households on Qualifying Tribal Lands

The household is located on qualifying Tribal lands. Tribal lands include:

- Any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo, or colony;

- Former reservations in Oklahoma;

- Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act;

- Indian allotments;

- Hawaiian Home Lands; and

- Any land approved as Tribal for the purposes of the Lifeline program or the ACP by the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy and Wireline Competition Bureau.

Two Steps to Enroll

- Go to <u>GetInternet.gov</u> to apply or print out a mail-in application; and
- Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.
- Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.
- Eligible households must **<u>both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.</u>**

Enhancements

- Over the last few months, the Commission and USAC have made a number of enhancements to help streamline the National Verifier application process for consumers, including:
    - Streamlining the account creation process by not requiring the consumer to sign back in after creating an account.
    - Reducing the number of steps, the consumer must take before finding out their eligibility;
    - Simplifying the consumer certification process to one step;
    - Clarified instructions for enrolling with provider;
    - Simplifying the application process for mobile phone users; and
    - Transitioning application landing page to GetInternet.gov or AccedeaInternet.gov for Spanish speakers. AffordablecConnectivity.gov will remain a resource for consumers, participating providers, and digital navigators.

Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program

- The FCC established the ACP Outreach Grant Program, which provides eligible state and local governmental and non-governmental entities with the funding and resources needed to increase awareness of and participation in the ACP among those eligible households most in need of affordable connectivity. The ACP Outreach Grant Program includes the following sub-programs:

- National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP);

- Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP);

- Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Outreach Grants; and

- ACP Navigator Pilot Program Outreach Grants.

Utah Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program Round One Recipients

- Utah Community Action Partnership Association Inc.

- Utah State University

- Catholic Community Services of Utah

- Santaquin City Library

For a complete list of target allocation for Utah Grantees, please visit www.fcc.gov/acp-grants

Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant Program Round Two

- On May 25, 2023, the FCC issued [two Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs)](#) for up to $10 million.
    - $5 million for the National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP)
    - $5 million for the Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP).

- NCOP: Only eligible governmental and non-governmental entities in eligible States and Territories are eligible to apply for NCOP. Nationally-based non-profits may be eligible for NCOP funding.

- TCOP: Eligibility will be limited to governmental and non-governmental Tribal entities that will conduct ACP outreach and enrollment assistance to eligible households on qualifying Tribal Lands

- Grant recipients and sub-recipients that received funding under the initial ACP Outreach Grant Program are not eligible for ACP Outreach Grant Program – Funding Round 2.

For more information about the ACP Outreach Grant Program please visit www.fcc.gov/acp-grants or email ACPgrants@fcc.gov.

Affordable Connectivity Pilot Programs

The FCC created two one-year pilot programs designed to increase awareness of and facilitate enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program and to provide consumers assistance with ACP applications.

- **The Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program:** increases awareness of the ACP, specifically among recipients of federal housing assistance. This pilot program will facilitate enrollment in the ACP by providing targeted assistance with completion of the program application.

- **The ACP Navigator Pilot Program:** provides a limited number of neutral, trusted third-party entities access to the National Verifier for purposes of assisting consumers with completing and submitting an application for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

March 15, 2023: The FCC released a list of 23 Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program entities and 9 ACP Navigator Pilot Program entities selected for participation with grant funding.

April 6, 2023: The FCC released the final list of entities selected to participant in the ACP Pilot Programs which included two additional entities for the ACP Navigator Pilot Program.

The period of performance for both Pilot Programs has begun, and most participants have started their consumer outreach activities.

Utah Affordable Connectivity Pilot Programs Participants

<u>Your Home, Your Internet</u>:

Utah Paiute Tribal Housing Authority, LLC

<u>ACP Navigator Pilot Program</u>:

Government of Salt Lake County

For information about the ACP Pilot Programs please visit fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-pilot-programs or email ACPpilots@fcc.gov .