

## Federal Communications Commission: The Affordable Connectivity Program (“ACP”)

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for fast, affordable, and reliable broadband to support distance learning, remote work, and telehealth. For those in low-income households, maintaining an Internet connection often means choosing between other necessities. To address the immediate need for Internet access, Congress created the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (“EBB”) to address affordability, one of the main barriers to adoption.

After a successful year of over 8.5 million enrollments, Congress recognized the need to codify a permanent affordability program and created the Affordable Connectivity Program (“ACP”). The program, run by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), offers a monthly discount to offset the cost of broadband Internet subscriptions. In addition, the program provides a one-time discount on a laptop, desktop, or tablet computer.

Emergency Broadband Benefit recipients fully enrolled as of December 31, 2021, will automatically continue to receive their current monthly benefit until March 1, 2022. You can learn more the program transition and steps you may need to take to stay enrolled after March 1st [here](#).

Various broadband providers, including those offering wired, wireless, and mobile broadband will be participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program. Check with the broadband providers in your area to learn about their plans for program participation and eligible service offerings. You can find a list of participating providers by state and territory by clicking [here](#).

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines; or
- participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or [Lifeline](#);
- participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year;
- received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider’s existing low-income program.

The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Limits one monthly service discount and one device discount per household

For more information on the program, visit NCC’s [resource page](#), the [FCC’s website](#), or [USAC’s website](#).