



Issue Brief

BCAP
BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

May 2023

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service and connected devices.

On Nov. 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act) provided \$14.2 billion to modify and extend the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) to a longer-term broadband affordability program called the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

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.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. Recertification is an annual requirement for ACP subscribers. This process is completed to ensure that active ACP subscribers are still eligible for the benefit.

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (For example: a two-person household could earn a maximum of \$39,440 or a four-person family could earn up to \$60,000), or if a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program.
- Participates in one of these assistance programs: Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools; SNAP; Medicaid; Federal Housing Assistance; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); WIC; Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits; or Lifeline.
- Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on Qualifying Tribal lands: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations or Tribal Head Start (income based).

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

The program started with a little over 9 million households at the start of 2022 and added over 500,000 new enrollees per month.

Funds are expected to be exhausted mid-2024 unless Congress reauthorizes the program. No definitive plan for that has been announced.

As of May 15, 2023, 605,892 households in Pennsylvania were enrolled. Nationally, 18,027,117 households enrolled.