

Federal Communications Commission

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[fcc.gov/consumers](https://www.fcc.gov/consumers)



Affordable Connectivity Program

Helping Households Connect

Congressionally Appropriated Programs

- Affordable Connectivity Program
- Emergency Connectivity Fund
- COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Universal Service Fund Programs

- E-Rate
- Rural Health Care & Connected Care Pilot Program
- Lifeline
- High-cost



Affordable Connectivity Program
Helping Households Connect

Affordable Connectivity Program

What is the benefit?

Who is eligible?

How can households apply?



Affordable Connectivity Program

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What is the Benefit?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program that provides a discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households can receive:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on Tribal lands, and;
- A one-time discount for \$100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.





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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 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;
- Participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program (including the Community Eligibility Provision);
- Received a Pell Grant in the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.



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Two Steps to Enroll

1. Go to [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org) to apply, or print out a mail-in application; and
2. 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 **both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.**





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How Does the ACP Protect Consumers?

The rules protect Affordable Connectivity Program recipients by:

- Empowering consumers to choose the service plan that best meets their needs (including a plan they may already be on);
- Ensuring consumers have access to supported broadband services regardless of their credit status;
- Prohibiting providers from excluding consumers with past due balances or prior debt from enrolling in the program;
- Preventing consumers from being forced into more expensive or lower quality plans in order to receive the ACP benefit;
- Reducing the potential for bill shock or other financial harms;
- Allowing ACP recipients to switch providers or broadband service offerings; and
- Providing a dedicated FCC process for [ACP complaints](#).



Affordable Connectivity Program

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ACP Outreach Toolkit

Social

Logos

Social Media Images

Draft Posts

Newsletter Insert

Draft Press Release

Printables

Fact Sheet

Flyer

9" x 5" Info Card

¼ Page Handout

Poster/Infographic

Videos and PSAs

ASL Video

Overview Video

Audio PSAs



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Outreach grant program: The Further Notice seeks comment on how to establish and administer a grant program to support outreach and program awareness efforts, on similar federal grant programs, duration of the grants, types of outreach efforts to support, how to evaluate proposals, and how to monitor performance.

High-cost area enhanced benefit: The Further Notice seeks comment on the implementation of a separate enhanced benefit for households serviced in high-cost areas as defined in the Infrastructure Act and to be determined by NTIA. (*See* 47 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(7)(B))

Pilot Program for households receiving Federal Public Housing Assistance: The Further Notice seeks comment on pilot program to expand ACP participation for these households, including increasing awareness and navigating enrollment process.

The ACP Order and Further Notice was published in the Federal Register on February 14th. Reply comments are due **on April 15th**.



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Resources

FCC's ACP Consumer Hub: www.fcc.gov/ACP

ACP Support Center: (877) 384-2575

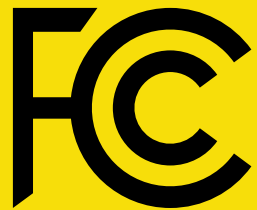
Consumer FAQ: <https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq>

Toolkit: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp-toolkit>

To apply: www.ACPBenefit.org

Contact: ACPinfo@fcc.gov



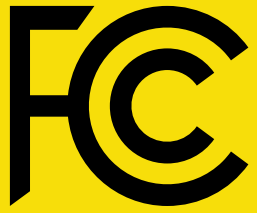


Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

The Emergency Connectivity Fund is a **\$7.171 billion** fund established as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to help schools and libraries provide connected devices and broadband connectivity to students, school staff, and library patrons during the coronavirus pandemic.

Eligible Equipment & Services: Eligible equipment includes Wi-Fi hotspots, modems (including air cards), routers, devices that combine a modem and router, and connected devices (laptop and tablet computers). Schools and libraries can also receive funding for commercially available broadband service that provides a fixed or mobile broadband connection for off-campus use by students, school staff or library patrons.

The FCC announced a third application window that will open on April 28 and close on May 13. Eligible schools and libraries may request funding during this 15-day filing window for a maximum of 12 months of eligible services and equipment that will be received or delivered between July 1, 2022, and December 31, 2023.



Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

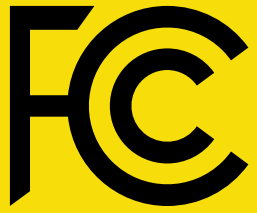
Eligible Applicants: Schools, libraries, and consortia of schools and libraries that are eligible for support under the E-Rate Program are eligible for ECF Program support.

Note: Tribal libraries are eligible for support under the Library Services and Technology Act and are therefore eligible for ECF Program support.

Previous Filing Windows: The FCC and USAC have opened and closed two application filing windows for schools and libraries to apply for ECF Program support for eligible equipment and services received or delivered between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

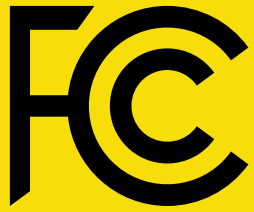
Alaska applicants requested over \$59 million in funding in the first two windows.
To date, over \$29 million have been committed

For more information visit: www.fcc.gov/emergency-connectivity-fund



The E-Rate Program

- **The E-Rate Program** provides support to schools and libraries across the nation to obtain affordable, high-speed broadband services and internal connections to connect students and library patrons with learning opportunities and services.
- **Eligible Services:** Eligible schools and libraries may apply for funding for the following:
 - *Category One:* Services that support connectivity to schools and libraries. This includes, for example, data transmission and Internet access service, including special construction services for network builds.
 - *Category Two:* Services that support connectivity within schools and libraries. This includes, for example, internal connections (i.e., routers, switches, cabling); managed Internet broadband services, and basic maintenance of internal connections.



The E-Rate Program Updates

On January 27, 2022, the FCC unanimously adopted an Order ([FCC 22-8](#)) to add “Tribal library” to the definition of a “library” in the E-Rate rules.

On February 2, 2022 the FCC announced a partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services to raise awareness about the E-Rate program among Tribal libraries and organizations

Application deadline closed on March 22, but Tribal library applicants who are new to E-Rate program have until May 26, 2022. *See* [DA 22-231](#)

Annual Funding Cap: \$4.46 billion available for the 2022 funding year, which runs from July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023.

Additional info: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/e-rateschools-libraries-usf-program> and <https://www.usac.org/e-rate>