



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of Native Affairs and Policy

From: Native <Native@fcc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 5:09 PM

Subject: The FCC is Taking Steps to Wind Down the Affordable Connectivity Program

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would like to inform our Tribal partners that the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is expected to end this spring unless Congress appropriates additional funding. As a result, the FCC has begun taking steps to wind down the ACP. The FCC projects that households enrolled in the ACP will continue to receive the benefit on their internet service through April 2024. This date is an estimate and may change.

In 2021, Congress established the Affordable Connectivity Program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and appropriated \$14.2 billion for the program. The FCC was tasked to develop and implement the ACP as well as ACP outreach and awareness activities. As of today, over 22 million households are enrolled and receiving the ACP monthly benefit.

What's happening?

Without additional funding from Congress, the FCC anticipates that the current ACP funding is projected to run out in April 2024. This date is an estimate and may change. As a result, the FCC has begun taking steps to wind down the ACP, which means:

- No new ACP enrollments will be accepted after February 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET.
- Households that have enrolled with an ACP internet company before February 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET will continue to receive their ACP benefit until ACP funds run out as long as the household remains enrolled and eligible for the benefit.
- When ACP funds run out, households participating in the ACP will no longer receive the ACP discounts.

What should ACP households expect?

All households enrolled in the ACP will continue to receive the benefit on their internet service until ACP funding, which is currently projected through April 2024, runs out.

Eligible households who wish to receive the ACP benefit but have not yet applied for the program should submit a completed ACP application as soon as possible to allow time for processing so that an eligibility determination can be made and the eligible household can sign up with an internet company by February 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET. To reiterate – during this program wind-down period, households must BOTH submit their application on a timely basis in

order to be approved AND if qualified sign up with an ACP-eligible internet company by February 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET.

During the ACP wind-down period, ACP households will receive notices from their internet company about the impact of the end of the benefit on the household's bill and service. The notices will include:

- that the ACP is ending,
- the impact on their bill,
- the date of the last bill they will receive that includes the ACP benefit, and
- that they may change their service or opt-out of continuing service after the end of the ACP

ACP households will also receive notices from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the ACP.

ACP households may also switch their internet plans without penalty.

[How can you help?](#)

As our outreach partner, we ask that you help raise awareness about the ACP coming to an end. Here is the link for an [ACP Wind-Down Fact Sheet](#) that you can use to help spread the word. The ACP Wind-Down Frequently Asked Questions can also be found here: www.fcc.gov/acp. We want to make sure all impacted Tribal households are informed about the program ending and can navigate next steps as they explore alternative ways to stay connected.

[Important Dates:](#)

- **January 11, 2024:** The FCC released an [Order](#) laying out wind-down processes and important dates including the enrollment freeze and the impacts on consumers, internet companies, and ACP Outreach Grant recipients.
- **Starting late January 2024:** Households that are currently receiving a monthly ACP benefit will start to receive notices from their internet companies with information about the end of the ACP benefit. This information will include timing of the end of the program and the impact of the loss of the benefit on the household's bill and service.
- **February 7, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET:** This is the last day that the ACP will accept new applications and enrollments. Eligible households must be approved and enrolled with an internet company by 11:59 PM ET on February 7th to receive the ACP benefit until the program ends. Starting February 8, 2024, there will be no more enrollments into the ACP.



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- **April 2024:** The timeframe the FCC anticipates ACP funding will run out if Congress does not provide additional funding. Currently, the FCC expects consumers that are enrolled in the ACP to continue to receive their full benefit on their internet service through at least April 2024.

We encourage everyone to visit AffordableConnectivity.gov and fcc.gov/acp for more information and further updates regarding the Affordable Connectivity Program.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Native@fcc.gov. Please also stay tuned for more information about an upcoming webinar.

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