



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 22-152

Released: February 14, 2022

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES EFFECTIVE DATES OF AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM RULES AND COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT DEADLINES FOR RELATED FURTHER NOTICE

WC Docket No. 21-450

Comment Deadline: March 16, 2022
Reply Comment Deadline: April 15, 2022

On January 21, 2022, the Federal Communications Commission released the *Affordable Connectivity Program Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ACP Order and Further Notice)* providing the final rules to implement the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).¹ The *ACP Order and Further Notice* was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2022.² As set forth in the *ACP Order and Further Notice*, all adopted rules have the following effective dates.³

Rules that will become effective on March 16, 2022:⁴

- § 54.1800 – Definitions
- § 54.1801 – Participating providers
- § 54.1802(a) – Affordable connectivity benefit
- § 54.1803 – Affordable Connectivity Program support amounts
- § 54.1805 – Household qualifications for the Affordable Connectivity Program
- § 54.1806 – Household eligibility determinations and annual recertifications
- § 54.1807(a) – Enrollment representative registration
- § 54.1808(a)-(g) – Reimbursement
- § 54.1809(a)-(b), (d)-(e) – De-enrollment from the Affordable Connectivity Program
- § 54.1810(c)-(i) – Credit checks, Non-Payment, Upselling and down selling prohibition, Extended service
- § 54.1811 – Recordkeeping requirements
- § 54.1812 – Validity of electronic signatures

¹ *Affordable Connectivity Program; Emergency Broadband Benefit Program*, WC Docket No. 21-450, WC Docket No. 20-445, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC-22-2 (Jan. 21, 2022) (*ACP Order and Further Notice*).

² Federal Communications Commission, *Affordable Connectivity Program; Emergency Broadband Benefit Program*, Final Rule, 87 Fed. Reg. 8346 (Feb. 14, 2022) (to be codified at 47 CFR pt. 54).

³ *See id.* at 134-135, para. 305.

⁴ *See id.*

Rules that will become effective on April 15, 2022:⁵

- § 54.1802(b) – Availability of service plans
- § 54.1804 – Participating provider obligation to offer the Affordable Connectivity Program
- § 54.1807(b) – Prohibition of commissions for enrollment representatives
- § 54.1808(c)(1)-(2) – Usage requirement for provider reimbursement, Provider certification requirements
- § 54.1809(c) – De-Enrollment for non-usage
- § 54.1810(a) – Disclosures and consents for enrollment
- § 54.1810(b) – Transfers in the Affordable Connectivity Program

In the *Further Notice*, the Commission seeks comment on the structuring of an outreach grant program, and implementation of a mechanism for determining the application of the enhanced benefit for providers serving “high cost” areas as determined by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.⁶ The Commission also seeks comment on a potential pilot program focused on increasing awareness of and enrollment in the ACP for households receiving federal public housing assistance.⁷ The Commission set deadlines for filing comments and reply comments at 30 and 60 days, respectively, after publication of the *Further Notice* in the Federal Register.⁸ The *Further Notice* was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2022.⁹ Comments should therefore be submitted no later than **March 16, 2022**.¹⁰ Reply Comments must be submitted no later than **April 15, 2022**.¹¹ Commenters should follow the filing instructions provided in paragraph 300 of the *ACP Order and Further Notice*.¹²

For further information, please contact Travis Hahn of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, at 202-418-7400, or via e-mail at travis.hahn@fcc.gov.

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⁵ See *id.* at 123, para 270.

⁶ See *id.*

⁷ See *id.* at 133-134, para 300.

⁸ See *id.*

⁹ Federal Communications Commission, Affordable Connectivity Program, Proposed Rule, 87 Fed. Reg. 8385 (Feb. 14, 2022).

¹⁰ See *ACP Order and Further Notice* at 133-134, para 300.

¹¹ See *id.*

¹² See *id.*