



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF ACP OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS

WC Docket No. 21-450

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) today is announcing final funding allocations for the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program (ACP Outreach Grant Program), National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP) Round 2. The total amount of final funds announced today for NCOP Round 2 is over \$4.3 million.

In March 2023, the FCC adopted the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Fifth Report & Order making available a second funding opportunity for the ACP Outreach Grant Program.¹ The ACP plays an integral role in helping to bridge the digital divide, which remains a top priority for the Commission.² As part of its efforts to encourage participation in the ACP, the Commission established the ACP Outreach Grant Program in order to engage with partners around the country to help inform ACP-eligible households about the program in their local communities, with funding and resources to support such outreach and community engagement.³ The extensive demand for ACP outreach funding so far underscores the need for these funds and the importance of reaching the eligible households that have not yet enrolled in the ACP.⁴ This new funding opportunity for ACP outreach is intended to provide targeted funding towards 12 states and territories where funding minimums were not met during Round 1 as part of the Commission's March 10, 2023 funding announcement.⁵

In determining funding allocations for the second round of NCOP final allocations, the FCC reviewed 21 grant applications to determine the impact of proposed projects against the grant program's goal, objectives, and priorities. Submitted applications were assessed using the following three-step review process:

1. **Eligibility** review to determine if the applicant is eligible and submitted a complete application package as required in the NCOP Round 2 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

¹ *Affordable Connectivity Program*, Fifth Report and Order, WC Docket No. 21-450, FCC 23-15 (rel. Mar. 15, 2023) (*ACP Fifth Report and Order*).

² See *Affordable Connectivity Program, Emergency Broadband Benefit Program*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket Nos. 21-450, 20-445, FCC 22-2, at 98, para. 211 (2022) (*ACP Order*) (“Narrowing the digital divide has been an ongoing priority for the Commission...”).

³ *Affordable Connectivity Program*, Second Report and Order, WC Docket No. 21-450, FCC 22-64, at 2, para. 2 (2022).

⁴ *Id.* at 4-6, paras. 4-6 (discussing the need for and importance of ACP outreach).

⁵ *Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Announces ACP Outreach Grant Program Target Funding*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 21-450, DA 22-194 (CGB Mar. 10, 2023). On March 15, 2023, the Commission announced the awards for the Your Home, Your Internet and ACP Navigator Pilot Programs.

2. **Merit** review to determine the quality of proposed projects against program objectives, activities, and costs/budget using pre-determined criteria; and
3. **Risk** review to determine the fiscal stability of an applicant using many factors including the quality of the management systems, history of grant performance, and audit reports and findings.

At the conclusion of the three-step review process, applicants were selected for funding consistent with the funding determination process outlined in the NCOP Round 2 NOFO.

Entity-specific final funding allocations are enclosed as part of the Appendix contained within this Public Notice. Following today's announcement, the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau will contact applicable entities over the course of the next few weeks to prepare for and issue Notices of Award (NOAs). Entities that have been selected for funding do not need to reach out to the FCC as the FCC will initiate outreach and coordination for award issuance. Once NOAs are issued, entities will have no more than 30 days to accept their award which will mark the start of their one-year (12 months) period of performance for NCOP Round 2.

Further questions regarding today's announcement can be directed to: acpgrants@fcc.gov.

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The FY 2023 NCOP Round 2 funding recipients announced on August 17, 2023 and final funding amounts are provided in the table below. Eligibility for NCOP Round 2 was limited to governmental and non-governmental entities in the following States and Territories where funding minimums were not met during Round 1 funding announcement: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Delaware, Guam, Idaho, Iowa, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Note, “ * ” denotes entities that applied as a nationally-based nonprofit organization. Nationally-based nonprofit organizations were deemed eligible for funding consideration if they met one of the following conditions:

- **Condition 1:** Named sub-recipients, with plans to pass through a portion of grant funding, that are located in and will be conducting ACP outreach and/or enrollment activities in at least three (3) or more of the above States/Territories; or
- **Condition 2:** Demonstrate a meaningful multi-state, multi-faceted ACP outreach and enrollment grant strategy that covers seven (7) or more States, to include at least four (4) from the above States/Territories in a proportional manner.

ACP Outreach Grant Program National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP) Round 2			
#	Applicant Name	State/Territory Name	Final Award Amount
1	American Samoa Department of Commerce	American Samoa	\$342,760
2	FSIC American Innovation and Opportunity Fund*	District of Columbia	\$305,000
3	Department of Administration, Office of Infrastructure Policy and Development	Guam	\$383,586
4	Regents of the University of Idaho	Idaho	\$392,666
5	Iowa Department of Management	Iowa	\$399,704
6	National Collaborative for Digital Equity	New Hampshire	\$316,200
7	Hispanic Federation, Inc.*	New York	\$574,016
8	Executive Office of the State of South Carolina Broadband Office	South Carolina	\$400,000
9	Palmetto Care Connections	South Carolina	\$374,947
10	South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation	South Dakota	\$400,000
11	National Association of Elementary School Principals*	Virginia	\$96,973
12	Department of Economic Development Office of Broadband	West Virginia	\$400,000
TOTAL:			\$4,385,852

*Entity applied as a nationally-based nonprofit organization.