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**For Immediate Release**

**FCC PARTNERS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS TO FACILITATE VETERANS' ACCESS TO THE  
AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY AND LIFELINE PROGRAMS**

*Will Streamline Eligibility Verification Through Sign-Up Process*

WASHINGTON, November 9, 2022—The Federal Communications Commission has launched a database connection with the Veterans Benefits Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, to make it easier for veterans to sign up for the Affordable Connectivity and Lifeline Programs. The connection will enable automatic eligibility verification of Veterans receiving qualifying pension benefits, who seek to apply for the FCC's Affordable Connectivity and Lifeline Programs. Veterans who have their eligibility automatically determined by the FCC's National Verifier will not need to submit additional eligibility documentation to enroll in the two programs. The Affordable Connectivity Program has served nearly 15 million people to date.

"I'm proud of this initiative to help our Veterans more easily get affordable online digital benefits that can open doors to education, health care and job opportunities," **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. "Both of these programs are already available to eligible Veterans, but with today's action we're making it a lot easier to quickly get qualified. I thank our government partners for their work on this project, and for their ongoing commitment to closing the digital divide for Veterans who have given so much in service to our country."

"This partnership between FCC and VA is a great step forward, paving the way for many Veterans to automatically access programs that will help them afford broadband and phone services," **said Josh Jacobs, VA's Senior Advisor for Policy Performing the Delegable Duties of the Under Secretary for Benefits**. "This will not only improve the lives of Veterans and their families—including those living in rural areas and those with low income—it will also make it easier for them to access the benefits they have earned and deserve."

The Lifeline program provides a monthly discount of up to \$9.25 for consumers accessing internet service and up to \$34.25 for such households on qualifying Tribal lands. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provides a separate monthly 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. Thus, non-Tribal households participating in both ACP and Lifeline could receive a discount of up to \$39.25. Eligible households participating in the ACP 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 FCC and Veterans Benefit Administration have an agreement for the automatic eligibility verification of Veterans receiving qualifying pension benefits who seek to apply for the FCC's ACP and Lifeline programs. Veterans who have their eligibility automatically determined by the FCC's National Verifier will not need to submit additional eligibility documentation to enroll in these programs. Currently, those seeking to qualify for ACP or Lifeline based on their participation in the qualifying pension programs need to provide documentation confirming their eligibility.

This database connection is a continuation of the FCC's work with state and federal partners to secure access to databases that allow for automated program eligibility checks for affordability programs. Since the National Verifier can be used to apply for both ACP and Lifeline, this will streamline the process for Veterans to apply for both programs and receive affordable internet service.

For more information on the ACP and Lifeline Programs, see: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> and <https://www.fcc.gov/lifeline-consumers>.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*