Media Contact: Anne Veigle anne.veigle@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

MORE THAN 17 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS ENROLL IN AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM AS AGENCY ANNOUNCES CONSUMER-FRIENDLY ENHANCEMENTS TO APPLICATION PROCESS

Helping Connect More Consumers to Affordable Internet

WASHINGTON, April 3, 2023—The Federal Communications Commission today announced a series of enhancements to the online consumer application system for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to make it easier for eligible consumers to apply and enroll in the program. The nation's largest-ever broadband affordability effort, the ACP is now supporting internet connections in 17 million households. The program, authorized and funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides a 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.

"As of today, seventeen million households have enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program. No small feat. But we aren't stopping there. We continue to look for ways to reach more people who could benefit from its support," **said FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. "Our application enhancements roll-out is part of our ongoing work to improve the consumer experience with the program, so even more families can get the support they need to get online and stay online."

"We partnered with the Federal Communications Commission to advance the President's mission to lower internet cost and expand internet for all, ensuring that every household has access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet. The Affordable Connectivity Program application enhancements will streamline the process and ensure that benefits reach as many households as possible with as little friction as possible," said U.S. Digital Service Deputy Administrator Cori Zarek. "Our focus on simplifying the applicant's experience will help get affordable internet to more households, ensuring families can do their homework, work from home, and access critical government services."

The enhancements are designed to reduce the time it takes to enroll by providing clear instructions, to decrease steps and to simplify language while continuing to protect against waste, fraud and abuse and guarding the integrity of the program. Enhancements were developed in consultation with digital navigators, digital equity advocates, and Internet Service Providers. The FCC will continue to make improvements to ensure that all qualifying consumers can easily access the Affordable Connectivity Program.

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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).