

## FACT SHEET: THE FUTURE OF THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

*Without Immediate Congressional Action, FCC Must Soon Wind Down  
This Vital Program That Is Helping Close Digital Divide*

---

### Future of the ACP

- For months, Chairwoman Rosenworcel has emphasized the need for additional funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and the White House recently made an additional funding request to Congress for \$6 billion to keep the program going.
- With less than four months before the projected program end date and without any immediate additional funding, **this week the Commission expects to begin taking steps to start winding down the program to give households, providers, and other stakeholders sufficient time to prepare.**
- Chairwoman Rosenworcel remains hopeful that Congress will provide additional funding for the ACP, and she will continue to share the impact of the nation's largest and most successful broadband affordability effort in our nation's history.
- For a copy of a letter Chairwoman Rosenworcel sent to congressional leaders outlining the next steps the FCC must take to prepare should Congress fail to fund the program, click [here](#).

### Need for Congressional Action

- While Congress initially appropriated \$14.2 billion for the ACP, more funding is urgently needed to keep the program in place so it can continue to support households that rely on this vital program and reach others that may be on the wrong side of the digital divide.
- The FCC expects funding to **last through April 2024, running out completely in May.**
- If Congress does not provide additional funding for the ACP soon, **millions of households will lose the ACP benefit that they use to afford internet service.**
- This means that **1,700 internet service providers** will be affected by the termination of the ACP and may cut off service to households no longer supported by the program.
- Moreover, losing the ACP would **undermine the historic \$42.5 billion** Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, for which the ACP supports a stable customer base to help incentivize deployment in rural areas.

## **Background**

- Launched on December 31, 2021 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Affordable Connectivity Program is the largest internet affordability program in U.S. history.
- The program has enrolled nearly 23 million households, helping close the digital divide by bringing more households online.
- Under the current program, eligible low-income households can receive a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service and up to \$75 per month for eligible households on qualifying Tribal lands.
- Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.
- While the program helps connect households in rural and urban communities alike, rural households have enrolled at a higher rate than their urban counterparts.

###

**Released:** January 8, 2024

**Media Contact:** [MediaRelations@fcc.gov](mailto:MediaRelations@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).*