

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
2000 Rayburn House Office Building (G Floor)
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Womack:

I am writing to provide an update on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which is on the brink of shutting down due to lack of funding. This program is the largest broadband affordability effort in our Nation's history. Today, more than 23 million households nationwide count on it to get online and stay online, including vulnerable seniors, veterans, school-aged children, and residents of rural and Tribal communities. Unless Congress acts, April will be the final month that those who count on the ACP—one in six households across the country—will receive the full benefit toward the cost of their broadband service.

There is broad support to provide additional funding for the ACP. The bipartisan, bicameral Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act, which was introduced in January 2024, has grown to over 215 co-sponsors, and was recently endorsed by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. But despite the breadth of this support and the urgent need to continue this program to ensure millions of households nationwide do not lose essential internet access, no additional funding has yet been appropriated.

Due to the lack of additional funding, the Federal Communications Commission has been required to take steps to wind down the ACP. In April, ACP households will receive notices from their providers stating that this is the last month that they will see the federal government's full ACP benefit on their broadband bill. These notices are required to help ACP households avoid service disruption and bill shock following the loss of the support provided by the program. Consumers are also receiving written notices about the end of the ACP via e-mail, text, or mail from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the entity that administers the program. These notifications may happen as many of your members are at home in their districts and hearing from their constituents about the benefits of the ACP.

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The impending loss of the ACP benefit, which has provided qualifying households \$30 in monthly support for broadband and up to \$75 in support for households on Tribal lands, is not trivial. Many recent press reports about the impending end of this program describe how ACP households across the country are now facing hard choices about what expenses they have to cut, including food and gas, to maintain their broadband access, with some households doubtful they can afford to keep their broadband service at all.² These households are both urban and rural and young and old. What they have in common is that for the better part of the last three years, they have been able to consistently afford broadband service without interruption because Congress set up the ACP and its predecessor known as the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. These press reports echo what the Commission has been hearing from ACP households directly, with many writing the agency to express their distress and fear that ending this program could lead them to lose access to the internet at home. They also reflect the Commission's survey results I shared with you in my March 4, 2024 letter, demonstrating that 77 percent of households say losing their ACP benefit would disrupt their service by making them change their plan or drop internet service entirely.

To illustrate the extent of the service loss that may result from the end of this program, the attachment to this letter provides updated data on the number of enrolled ACP households in each state, territory, and congressional district. Based on estimates of state-by-state participation rates, more than three-quarters of the states, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have ACP participation rates among eligible households of 30 percent or higher.³

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The end of the ACP will also have a detrimental impact on veterans.⁶ One study has shown more than four million households with an active or former military member are enrolled in the ACP.⁷ Since its inception, the ACP has played a critical role helping low-income veterans obtain the connectivity they need for telehealth services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), as well as job training, employment and VA benefits.⁸ The end of the ACP would place these individuals at special risk of losing access to the broadband they need for telemedicine and modern healthcare and other important VA services.

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The ACP has also helped narrow the digital divide in rural and Tribal areas, which generally have lower broadband subscription rates and higher broadband costs along with higher poverty rates, as compared to non-rural and non-Tribal areas. Roughly 15 percent of all households in the program are from rural areas. The Commission's survey suggests that prior to participating in the ACP these households were more likely to have no broadband access at all or inconsistent connectivity than those in non-rural areas. Since the inception of the ACP, we have seen participation among households in Tribal areas increase by 136 percent. With the end of the ACP, this progress is now at risk. In what is perverse, both rural and Tribal communities will likely see new broadband deployment in remote areas, thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, but persistent challenges with cost—absent the ACP—may limit the ability of this investment to close the digital divide.

To fully participate in the digital age economy, every household needs access to broadband. When Congress asked the Commission to set up the ACP to further this goal, we did so in record time. The result has been the most consequential broadband affordability effort in our history. I want you to know that the agency remains ready to keep this program running, should Congress provide additional funding. We have come too far to allow this successful effort to promote internet access for all to end.

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Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth Office Building
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April 2, 2024

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Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
United States Senate
S-128 The Capital Building
Washington, DC 20510

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To fully participate in the digital age economy, every household needs access to broadband. When Congress asked the Commission to set up the ACP to further this goal, we did so in record time. The result has been the most consequential broadband affordability effort in our history. I want you to know that the agency remains ready to keep this program running, should Congress provide additional funding. We have come too far to allow this successful effort to promote internet access for all to end.

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April 2, 2024

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Hagerty:

I am writing to provide an update on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which is on the brink of shutting down due to lack of funding. This program is the largest broadband affordability effort in our Nation's history. Today, more than 23 million households nationwide count on it to get online and stay online, including vulnerable seniors, veterans, school-aged children, and residents of rural and Tribal communities. Unless Congress acts, April will be the final month that those who count on the ACP—one in six households across the country—will receive the full benefit toward the cost of their broadband service.

There is broad support to provide additional funding for the ACP. The bipartisan, bicameral Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act, which was introduced in January 2024, has grown to over 215 co-sponsors, and was recently endorsed by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. But despite the breadth of this support and the urgent need to continue this program to ensure millions of households nationwide do not lose essential internet access, no additional funding has yet been appropriated.

Due to the lack of additional funding, the Federal Communications Commission has been required to take steps to wind down the ACP. In April, ACP households will receive notices from their providers stating that this is the last month that they will see the federal government's full ACP benefit on their broadband bill. These notices are required to help ACP households avoid service disruption and bill shock following the loss of the support provided by the program. Consumers are also receiving written notices about the end of the ACP via e-mail, text, or mail from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the entity that administers the program. These notifications may happen as many of your members are at home in their districts and hearing from their constituents about the benefits of the ACP.

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In May, ACP households will see changes in their bill. While full program support will no longer be available due to the lack of additional funding from Congress, the limited remaining funds in the program will be applied to enrolled households, if their provider elects to participate in partial reimbursement, resulting in a discount estimated between \$7 and \$16 in May. Absent additional funding from Congress, the program will close. There will be no further ACP benefit after May.

The impending loss of the ACP benefit, which has provided qualifying households \$30 in monthly support for broadband and up to \$75 in support for households on Tribal lands, is not trivial. Many recent press reports about the impending end of this program describe how ACP households across the country are now facing hard choices about what expenses they have to cut, including food and gas, to maintain their broadband access, with some households doubtful they can afford to keep their broadband service at all.² These households are both urban and rural and young and old. What they have in common is that for the better part of the last three years, they have been able to consistently afford broadband service without interruption because Congress set up the ACP and its predecessor known as the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. These press reports echo what the Commission has been hearing from ACP households directly, with many writing the agency to express their distress and fear that ending this program could lead them to lose access to the internet at home. They also reflect the Commission's survey results I shared with you in my March 4, 2024 letter, demonstrating that 77 percent of households say losing their ACP benefit would disrupt their service by making them change their plan or drop internet service entirely.

To illustrate the extent of the service loss that may result from the end of this program, the attachment to this letter provides updated data on the number of enrolled ACP households in each state, territory, and congressional district. Based on estimates of state-by-state participation rates, more than three-quarters of the states, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have ACP participation rates among eligible households of 30 percent or higher.³

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April 2, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

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April 2, 2024

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Cruz:

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To fully participate in the digital age economy, every household needs access to broadband. When Congress asked the Commission to set up the ACP to further this goal, we did so in record time. The result has been the most consequential broadband affordability effort in our history. I want you to know that the agency remains ready to keep this program running, should Congress provide additional funding. We have come too far to allow this successful effort to promote internet access for all to end.

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April 2, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers Chair Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives 2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

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There is broad support to provide additional funding for the ACP. The bipartisan, bicameral Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act, which was introduced in January 2024, has grown to over 215 co-sponsors, and was recently endorsed by the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. But despite the breadth of this support and the urgent need to continue this program to ensure millions of households nationwide do not lose essential internet access, no additional funding has yet been appropriated.

Due to the lack of additional funding, the Federal Communications Commission has been required to take steps to wind down the ACP. In April, ACP households will receive notices from their providers stating that this is the last month that they will see the federal government's full ACP benefit on their broadband bill. These notices are required to help ACP households avoid service disruption and bill shock following the loss of the support provided by the program. Consumers are also receiving written notices about the end of the ACP via e-mail, text, or mail from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the entity that administers the program. These notifications may happen as many of your members are at home in their districts and hearing from their constituents about the benefits of the ACP.

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April 2, 2024

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¹¹ Rural areas are defined as non-metro counties determined by the USDA's 2023 rural-urban continuum codes: https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes/.

¹² FCC, ACP Consumer Survey at 9, https://www.fcc.gov/acp-survey (providing survey results for rural respondents concerning access to internet prior to the ACP).

¹³ USAC, ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker, Total Households at Enrollment Freeze, https://www.usac.org/about/affordable-connectivity-program/acp-enrollment-and-claims-tracker/ (last visited Mar. 30, 2024).

ACP Congressional District Enrollment Data (as of February 8, 2024 enrollment freeze)

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Alaska Total	At-Large	24,784
Alabama	01	48,026
Alabama	02	69,414
Alabama	03	62,286
Alabama	04	59,341
Alabama	05	37,246
Alabama	06	39,322
Alabama	07	98,007
Alabama Total		413,668
Arkansas	01	59,514
Arkansas	02	46,126
Arkansas	03	51,990
Arkansas	04	57,370
Arkansas Total		215,017
American Samoa Total	N/A	1,684
Arizona	01	39,047
Arizona	02	61,106
Arizona	03	93,322
Arizona	04	52,424
Arizona	05	23,688
Arizona	06	50,033
Arizona	07	103,989
Arizona	08	50,271
Arizona	09	48,227
Arizona Total		522,188
California	01	60,591
California	02	27,871
California	03	21,367
California	04	27,295
California	05	39,052
California	06	54,075
California	07	50,544
California	08	41,671
California	09	48,104
California	10	15,926
California	11	40,853
California	12	42,377

¹ Within each state, a *de minimis* number of households could not be assigned to a specific congressional district for a variety of reasons. For example, the address may not be in the database used for geocoding. Accordingly, for each state, the congressional district enrollment data may not add up to the state total.

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
California	13	63,622
California	14	23,450
California	15	20,279
California	16	17,037
California	17	18,195
California	18	42,515
California	19	23,619
California	20	57,368
California	21	88,444
California	22	108,970
California	23	92,209
California	24	38,202
California	25	111,964
California	26	40,522
California	27	69,862
California	28	52,991
California	29	90,737
California	30	63,788
California	31	84,074
California	32	45,260
California	33	97,955
California	34	99,289
California	35	74,699
California	36	28,355
California	37	106,199
California	38	57,701
California	39	84,458
California	40	26,703
California	41	52,929
California	42	89,380
California	43	103,060
California	44	76,214
California	45	60,061
California	46	79,311
California	47	30,038
California	48	42,723
California	49	33,372
California	50	41,761
California	51	55,368
California	52	82,836
California Total		2,945,282
Colorado	01	46,257

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Colorado	02	16,899
Colorado	03	51,292
Colorado	04	17,705
Colorado	05	31,337
Colorado	06	30,835
Colorado	07	24,513
Colorado	08	32,648
Colorado Total		251,506
Connecticut	01	49,651
Connecticut	02	31,964
Connecticut	03	38,667
Connecticut	04	25,915
Connecticut	05	40,314
Connecticut Total		186,531
District of Columbia Total	N/A	63,806
Delaware Total	At-Large	52,446
Florida	01	56,563
Florida	02	52,720
Florida	03	74,090
Florida	04	69,027
Florida	05	29,731
Florida	06	79,334
Florida	07	64,322
Florida	08	64,297
Florida	09	81,182
Florida	10	99,196
Florida	11	45,298
Florida	12	85,107
Florida	13	66,261
Florida	14	102,378
Florida	15	83,963
Florida	16	54,588
Florida	17	30,456
Florida	18	85,038
Florida	19	25,876
Florida	20	71,297
Florida	21	31,729
Florida	22	41,129
Florida	23	23,010
Florida	24	79,405
Florida	25	29,240
Florida	26	67,504

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Florida	27	52,999
Florida	28	62,075
Florida Total		1,707,856
Georgia	01	50,506
Georgia	02	99,447
Georgia	03	57,486
Georgia	04	52,061
Georgia	05	67,696
Georgia	06	11,081
Georgia	07	26,673
Georgia	08	69,038
Georgia	09	34,089
Georgia	10	51,323
Georgia	11	24,096
Georgia	12	64,509
Georgia	13	61,717
Georgia	14	52,702
Georgia Total		722,473
Guam Total	N/A	1,322
Hawaii	01	27,516
Hawaii	02	33,201
Hawaii Total		60,721
lowa	01	32,479
Iowa	02	30,420
Iowa	03	33,214
lowa	04	27,927
Iowa Total		124,054
Idaho	01	28,723
Idaho	02	25,230
Idaho Total		53,962
Illinois	01	82,060
Illinois	02	79,530
Illinois	03	30,927
Illinois	04	35,725
Illinois	05	15,941
Illinois	06	21,720
Illinois	07	84,888
Illinois	08	18,912
Illinois	09	26,896
Illinois	10	21,407
Illinois	11	18,186
Illinois	12	47,041

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Illinois	13	78,026
Illinois	14	26,384
Illinois	15	31,765
Illinois	16	24,935
Illinois	17	60,176
Illinois Total		704,532
Indiana	01	45,455
Indiana	02	37,787
Indiana	03	37,468
Indiana	04	28,317
Indiana	05	41,988
Indiana	06	40,852
Indiana	07	87,054
Indiana	08	60,542
Indiana	09	46,493
Indiana Total		425,968
Kansas	01	27,974
Kansas	02	42,865
Kansas	03	17,264
Kansas	04	45,625
Kansas Total		133,746
Kentucky	01	67,464
Kentucky	02	65,303
Kentucky	03	86,402
Kentucky	04	52,868
Kentucky	05	111,013
Kentucky	06	72,603
Kentucky Total		455,685
Louisiana	01	69,115
Louisiana	02	136,411
Louisiana	03	88,209
Louisiana	04	90,447
Louisiana	05	98,379
Louisiana	06	76,201
Louisiana Total		558,780
Massachusetts	01	73,172
Massachusetts	02	51,669
Massachusetts	03	42,217
Massachusetts	04	29,616
Massachusetts	05	21,922
Massachusetts	06	24,421
Massachusetts	07	58,031

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Massachusetts	08	37,576
Massachusetts	09	29,249
Massachusetts Total		367,884
Maryland	01	34,435
Maryland	02	31,966
Maryland	03	20,575
Maryland	04	34,706
Maryland	05	21,036
Maryland	06	29,282
Maryland	07	99,114
Maryland	08	16,595
Maryland Total		287,722
Maine	01	36,715
Maine	02	61,917
Maine Total		98,639
Michigan	01	71,169
Michigan	02	65,158
Michigan	03	51,873
Michigan	04	65,208
Michigan	05	53,825
Michigan	06	36,382
Michigan	07	43,264
Michigan	08	100,733
Michigan	09	42,414
Michigan	10	76,811
Michigan	11	52,031
Michigan	12	131,627
Michigan	13	150,732
Michigan Total		941,244
Minnesota	01	35,012
Minnesota	02	19,857
Minnesota	03	19,752
Minnesota	04	39,321
Minnesota	05	43,639
Minnesota	06	24,896
Minnesota	07	27,866
Minnesota	08	34,564
Minnesota Total		244,916
Missouri	01	103,369
Missouri	02	26,484
Missouri	03	33,835
Missouri	04	37,067

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Missouri	05	60,564
Missouri	06	33,431
Missouri	07	36,935
Missouri	08	63,799
Missouri Total		395,504
Northern Mariana Islands		
Total	N/A	3,218
Mississippi	01	46,470
Mississippi	02	94,845
Mississippi	03	50,123
Mississippi	04	52,815
Mississippi Total		244,280
Montana	01	26,170
Montana	02	28,357
Montana Total		54,539
North Carolina	01	81,436
North Carolina	02	34,284
North Carolina	03	62,708
North Carolina	04	59,004
North Carolina	05	71,107
North Carolina	06	80,122
North Carolina	07	83,292
North Carolina	08	66,991
North Carolina	09	74,771
North Carolina	10	72,921
North Carolina	11	44,669
North Carolina	12	60,598
North Carolina	13	56,372
North Carolina	14	53,086
North Carolina Total		901,394
North Dakota Total	At-Large	17,742
Nebraska	01	31,398
Nebraska	02	36,997
Nebraska	03	27,729
Nebraska Total		96,140
New Hampshire	01	18,379
New Hampshire	02	20,458
New Hampshire Total		38,859
New Jersey	01	36,565
New Jersey	02	36,716
New Jersey	03	16,068
New Jersey	04	19,287

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
New Jersey	05	13,915
New Jersey	06	25,323
New Jersey	07	10,836
New Jersey	08	39,556
New Jersey	09	40,346
New Jersey	10	65,047
New Jersey	11	11,578
New Jersey	12	22,625
New Jersey Total		337,969
New Mexico	01	48,622
New Mexico	02	71,773
New Mexico	03	63,507
New Mexico Total		184,131
Nevada	01	91,835
Nevada	02	52,770
Nevada	03	53,079
Nevada	04	78,304
Nevada Total		276,024
New York	01	14,337
New York	02	28,493
New York	03	18,800
New York	04	22,577
New York	05	82,508
New York	06	66,799
New York	07	83,501
New York	08	102,343
New York	09	65,800
New York	10	67,186
New York	11	58,908
New York	12	47,034
New York	13	160,853
New York	14	89,852
New York	15	140,471
New York	16	48,195
New York	17	23,490
New York	18	47,506
New York	19	68,648
New York	20	80,800
New York	21	77,879
New York	22	80,695
New York	23	64,571
New York	24	71,418

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
New York	25	79,445
New York	26	100,028
New York Total		1,792,187
Ohio	01	76,637
Ohio	02	79,850
Ohio	03	81,033
Ohio	04	64,740
Ohio	05	69,887
Ohio	06	69,436
Ohio	07	38,616
Ohio	08	67,980
Ohio	09	74,865
Ohio	10	100,751
Ohio	11	135,883
Ohio	12	67,783
Ohio	13	87,139
Ohio	14	71,297
Ohio	15	71,134
Ohio Total		1,157,054
Oklahoma	01	88,116
Oklahoma	02	77,632
Oklahoma	03	63,992
Oklahoma	04	62,304
Oklahoma	05	59,792
Oklahoma Total		351,879
Oregon	01	30,286
Oregon	02	57,304
Oregon	03	39,749
Oregon	04	53,891
Oregon	05	26,267
Oregon	06	31,463
Oregon Total		238,974
Pennsylvania	01	18,287
Pennsylvania	02	88,723
Pennsylvania	03	95,732
Pennsylvania	04	18,858
Pennsylvania	05	45,866
Pennsylvania	06	29,598
Pennsylvania	07	42,528
Pennsylvania	08	50,973
Pennsylvania	09	41,026
Pennsylvania	10	43,240

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Pennsylvania	11	28,003
Pennsylvania	12	51,694
Pennsylvania	13	37,526
Pennsylvania	14	43,671
Pennsylvania	15	34,578
Pennsylvania	16	62,539
Pennsylvania	17	30,852
Pennsylvania Total		763,742
Puerto Rico Total	N/A	664,623
Rhode Island	01	46,527
Rhode Island	02	36,951
Rhode Island Total		83,516
South Carolina	01	25,095
South Carolina	02	51,978
South Carolina	03	61,347
South Carolina	04	66,292
South Carolina	05	51,007
South Carolina	06	78,332
South Carolina	07	81,612
South Carolina Total		415,680
South Dakota Total	At-Large	24,194
Tennessee	01	66,903
Tennessee	02	41,151
Tennessee	03	45,391
Tennessee	04	44,562
Tennessee	05	23,604
Tennessee	06	43,462
Tennessee	07	38,463
Tennessee	08	53,875
Tennessee	09	72,136
Tennessee Total		429,621
Texas	01	35,881
Texas	02	22,505
Texas	03	20,467
Texas	04	23,266
Texas	05	36,865
Texas	06	37,259
Texas	07	32,330
Texas	08	26,100
Texas	09	51,356
Texas	10	20,386
Texas	11	38,911

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Texas	12	39,929
Texas	13	40,570
Texas	14	45,292
Texas	15	93,194
Texas	16	81,420
Texas	17	40,535
Texas	18	58,186
Texas	19	35,198
Texas	20	78,599
Texas	21	24,331
Texas	22	19,533
Texas	23	49,633
Texas	24	19,391
Texas	25	37,143
Texas	26	18,222
Texas	27	59,965
Texas	28	89,981
Texas	29	47,104
Texas	30	74,631
Texas	31	29,766
Texas	32	54,624
Texas	33	72,246
Texas	34	114,337
Texas	35	67,253
Texas	36	38,291
Texas	37	25,999
Texas	38	17,790
Texas Total		1,718,552
Utah	01	19,021
Utah	02	26,205
Utah	03	14,786
Utah	04	15,038
Utah Total		75,088
Virginia	01	26,699
Virginia	02	46,524
Virginia	03	95,676
Virginia	04	73,706
Virginia	05	45,906
Virginia	06	43,026
Virginia	07	26,901
Virginia	08	28,486
Virginia	09	58,843

State	Congressional District ¹	Total ACP Households
Virginia	10	10,592
Virginia	11	13,994
Virginia Total		470,457
Virgin Islands Total	N/A	6,780
Vermont Total	At-Large	25,923
Washington	01	16,023
Washington	02	28,745
Washington	03	43,529
Washington	04	64,851
Washington	05	45,650
Washington	06	36,238
Washington	07	27,149
Washington	08	21,261
Washington	09	39,617
Washington	10	34,940
Washington Total		358,024
Wisconsin	01	60,115
Wisconsin	02	38,398
Wisconsin	03	42,384
Wisconsin	04	122,313
Wisconsin	05	32,591
Wisconsin	06	44,992
Wisconsin	07	41,655
Wisconsin	08	44,270
Wisconsin Total		426,733
West Virginia	01	75,083
West Virginia	02	53,464
West Virginia Total		128,571
Wyoming Total	At-Large	21,736