



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 23, 2024

Dear State Commission Partner:

I am writing to you in light of the approaching end of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP is the largest broadband affordability program in our Nation's history. In just over two years, the ACP grew to serve over 23 million households—more than one in six nationwide—across rural, suburban, and urban America. However, the households that have come to depend on this program will no longer be able to do so after the end of this month when, absent additional funding from Congress, the program will cease.

Unless Congress acts, ACP households will need to make tough choices about what expenses they may need to cut if they want to maintain their internet service. A recent survey revealed that losing the ACP benefit may force up to 77 percent of participating households to change their plan or drop internet service entirely. Moreover, disruptions in service will make it harder for ACP households to search for jobs, complete homework, and access telehealth services.

State public utility commissions have been trusted partners in promoting the ACP since its launch. But this kind of partnership is not new. For the last 40 years you have worked with the Commission to promote the Lifeline program, including our annual collaboration with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates on Lifeline Awareness Week. At their core, both the ACP and the Lifeline program are tools for keeping households connected to their families and their communities.

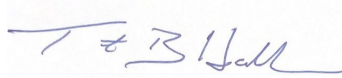
To this end, the Lifeline program's \$9.25 monthly benefit (\$34.25 monthly for households on qualifying Tribal lands) can provide some relief to ACP households that may struggle to afford broadband after the ACP ends. At present, approximately 7.6 million households are currently enrolled in the Lifeline program. While not all of the more than 23 million ACP households will qualify for Lifeline under the law, some ACP households not presently participating in Lifeline may be eligible for the program.

I hope you can help raise awareness of the Lifeline program at this critical time. We have developed a number of resources for our state partners that you might find useful: <https://www.usac.org/lifeline/resources/state-and-federal-partners/>. In addition, the Commission is available to provide training with respect to the Lifeline program and its enrollment process. To request training, please email Outreach@fcc.gov for assistance. I am also enclosing with this letter state-by-state ACP and Lifeline enrollment data and a fact sheet outlining the differences

between Lifeline and the ACP, which may be a useful tool for discussions with households and organizations that have relied on this program.

I appreciate your assistance helping ACP households navigate this transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T B Harkrader". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Trent B. Harkrader


ACP Impact by State

	Total ACP Support as of 4/15/2024	Households in State Enrolled in ACP as of 2/8/2024	Total Enrolled ACP Households as of 2/8/2024	Total Enrolled Lifeline Households
AK	\$25,947,939.49	1 in 11	24,784	19,092
AL	\$256,322,227.72	1 in 5	413,668	85,045
AR	\$127,810,694.88	1 in 6	215,017	80,151
AS	\$1,525,853.42	1 in 6	1,684	1,964
AZ	\$345,900,530.41	1 in 6	522,188	189,510
CA	\$1,668,542,768.52	1 in 5	2,945,282	1,123,349
CO	\$145,117,203.67	1 in 9	251,506	87,878
CT	\$114,217,693.91	1 in 8	186,531	57,303
DC	\$39,804,345.83	1 in 5	63,806	20,367
DE	\$29,219,966.59	1 in 8	52,446	13,152
FL	\$998,666,744.97	1 in 5	1,707,856	263,655
GA	\$450,504,396.13	1 in 6	722,473	273,703
GU	\$845,296.02	1 in 30	1,322	335
HI	\$33,719,998.04	1 in 8	60,721	16,952
IA	\$71,028,071.97	1 in 11	124,054	49,646
ID	\$28,963,256.66	1 in 12	53,962	13,735
IL	\$405,980,581.32	1 in 7	704,532	268,537
IN	\$252,111,980.18	1 in 6	425,968	166,329
KS	\$74,822,449.35	1 in 9	133,746	27,292
KY	\$278,755,514.42	1 in 4	455,685	150,432
LA	\$331,652,761.95	1 in 3	558,780	185,940
MA	\$217,388,669.98	1 in 8	367,884	108,254
MD	\$164,531,848.94	1 in 8	287,722	135,094
ME	\$55,922,901.98	1 in 6	98,639	20,154
MI	\$519,164,671.59	1 in 4	941,244	308,610
MN	\$143,311,224.39	1 in 9	244,916	74,642
MO	\$228,362,833.79	1 in 6	395,504	124,268
MP	\$2,519,836.06	1 in 4	3,218	2,171
MS	\$155,225,827.33	1 in 5	244,280	94,907
MT	\$32,968,720.24	1 in 8	54,539	3,322
NC	\$550,562,963.17	1 in 5	901,394	136,436
ND	\$9,938,822.83	1 in 20	17,742	7,480
NE	\$54,668,414.80	1 in 8	96,140	6,908
NH	\$22,320,804.17	1 in 14	38,859	8,786
NJ	\$185,479,059.77	1 in 10	337,969	134,141
NM	\$142,712,302.34	1 in 5	184,131	60,866
NV	\$160,879,893.43	1 in 4	276,024	87,915
NY	\$1,014,672,822.76	1 in 4	1,792,187	630,691
OH	\$693,245,257.93	1 in 4	1,157,054	336,640
OK	\$349,462,349.32	1 in 5	351,879	165,342
OR	\$129,345,086.99	1 in 8	238,974	17,183
PA	\$454,442,743.35	1 in 7	763,742	308,612
PR	\$464,351,364.95	1 in 2	664,623	539,052
RI	\$45,800,238.34	1 in 5	83,516	23,119
SC	\$255,022,887.46	1 in 5	415,680	111,627
SD	\$17,154,189.43	1 in 14	24,194	5,021
TN	\$265,721,626.66	1 in 7	429,621	145,457
TX	\$1,027,650,914.54	1 in 7	1,718,552	243,963
UT	\$42,800,509.89	1 in 14	75,088	28,298
VA	\$267,711,614.03	1 in 7	470,457	154,695
VI	\$2,641,626.54	1 in 6	6,780	1,368
VT	\$14,507,702.14	1 in 11	25,923	8,030
WA	\$206,187,265.84	1 in 8	358,024	132,151
WI	\$255,650,681.84	1 in 6	426,733	114,873
WV	\$76,150,942.14	1 in 6	128,571	58,835
WY	\$12,293,643.32	1 in 11	21,736	893



Affordable Connectivity Program & Lifeline

More than 23 million households, or 1 in 6 households nationwide, are no longer receiving the full monthly ACP support they have come to rely on over the past two years. An FCC survey revealed that losing the ACP benefit may force up to 77 percent of participating households to change their plan or drop internet service entirely. Some ACP households may be eligible to sign up for the FCC's Lifeline program. While the Lifeline program will not fully replace the ACP benefit, it may help keep ACP households connected.



What is Lifeline?

Lifeline is an FCC program that helps to lower the cost of internet and/or phone service for qualifying households. The benefits of the Lifeline program include:

- A service discount of up to \$9.25/month, or
- A service discount of up to \$34.25/month if you live on qualifying Tribal lands

Eligibility for Lifeline includes:

- Household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (this is different than the ACP's 200%).
- Participation in Federal Assistance Programs:
 - Medicaid,
 - SNAP,
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI),
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), including Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8 Vouchers), Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)/Section 202/Section 811, Public Housing, Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit,

ACP qualifying programs that **do NOT** qualify a household for Lifeline:

- Federal Pell Grant,
- Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools
- Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)
- A participating provider's existing low-income internet program.

Eligible ACP households that are not already receiving Lifeline will need to complete a Lifeline application to enroll. Households can visit lifelinesupport.org to apply for Lifeline and learn more about the program.

Not all ACP providers participate in the Lifeline program. You can find participating service providers by visiting the [Companies Near Me Tool](#).