

Affordable Connectivity Program Ends



Independent Fiscal Office | Research Brief | May 2024

In December 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualified Tribal lands. Eligible households could also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. The ACP was limited to a monthly service discount (ongoing if qualified) and one device discount per household. Households were eligible for the program if at least one member qualified under any of the following criteria:¹

- Has income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines;
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Social Security Income (SSI), Women, Infants & Children (WIC), or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

Due to the depletion of approved funds, the FCC recently announced that the ACP will not accept new enrollments, and the last fully-funded program month was April 2024.² For 2022, an average of 391,300 Pennsylvania households each month received \$151 million in ACP funds, an average monthly benefit of \$32 per household. (See table.) For 2023, an average of 609,600 Pennsylvania households received \$241 million in ACP funds, an average monthly benefit of \$33. The FCC data show that households in Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties received roughly one-third of total benefits.

	2022 Data		2023 Data	
	Number	Dollar	Number	Dollar
Pennsylvania	391	\$151	610	\$241
Philadelphia	105	\$41	153	\$62
Allegheny	37	\$14	57	\$23
Erie	19	\$7	28	\$11
Delaware	16	\$6	25	\$10
Berks	13	\$6	20	\$8
Luzerne	13	\$5	20	\$8
All Other	188	\$72	306	\$120

Note: Average number in 000s. Total dollars in millions.
Source: Federal Communications Commission.

The latest data for February 2024 show a drop in monthly benefits for Pennsylvania households as funds are depleted, from \$22.1 million in January to \$16.4 million in February. Once the subsidy ends, it is unclear how low-income beneficiaries will be impacted as internet service bills could increase by up to \$360 per annum.

Staff Contact

This research brief was produced by Frank Lill. Questions can be directed to flill@ifo.state.pa.us.

¹ See: [FCC Launches Affordable Connectivity Program | Federal Communications Commission](#).

² See: [ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker - Universal Service Administrative Company \(usac.org\)](#).