



Department of Planning & Development

Monroe County, New York

Adam Bello
County Executive

Ana J. Liss
Director

Memorandum

To: Members, Monroe County Council of Governments
From: Ana Liss, Monroe County Department of Planning & Development
Date: 6 June 2022
RE: FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) (As of June 3, 2022)

The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) was funded by \$14.2 billion by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which is also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). These funds will be available as broadband subsidies to eligible households until fully depleted.

ACP offers eligible households \$30 monthly broadband subsidies (one per household) through registered internet service providers (ISP). (Tribal households are eligible for higher subsidies.) The household receives the discount on its monthly bill and the ISP is made whole on its pricing by a direct transfer from ACP to the ISP on behalf of the eligible household.

1. **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** is limited to **one monthly service discount (\$30)**, recurring, and one device discount per eligible household.
2. **Household Eligibility** - Households can qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets one of the following criteria:
 - a. Participates in certain government assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline,
 - b. Participates in the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision,
 - c. Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year, or
 - d. Qualifies for a participating provider's existing low-income program, subject to FCC approval of that provider's eligibility process
3. **How to Prove Income** - If a consumer household's gross annual income is 200% or less than the federal poverty guidelines, they qualify for the ACP.
 - a. The table below reflects the income limit by household size, which is 200% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Household Size	New York
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260
For each additional person, add:	\$9,440

- b.
- c. To prove their gross annual income, consumers must provide a document that clearly shows their income information, such as:
- i. The prior year's state, federal, or Tribal tax return
 - ii. Current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub
 - iii. Social Security statement of benefits
 - iv. Unemployment or Workers' Compensation statement of benefits
 - v. Divorce decree, child support award, or other official document containing income information
4. **How to Prove Participation** - If a consumer participates in one of the following government assistance programs, their household qualifies for the ACP:
- a. Lifeline, having qualified based on income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines or through participation in one of the following programs:
 - b. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - c. Medicaid
 - d. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - e. Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - f. Veterans Pension or Survivors
 - g. Federal Pell Grant in the current award year
 - h. Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program including at US Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision schools
 - i. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
5. To prove participation in one of the above programs, consumers must submit a document that, at a minimum, includes:
- a. The consumer's name, or the name of their benefit qualifying person (BQP);
 - b. The name of the qualifying program, such as SNAP;
 - c. The government, Tribal entity, program administrator, school, school district, university, or college that issued the document; and
 - d. An issue date within the last 12 months or a future expiration date that aligns with the benefit period, with the following exceptions:

- e. For the Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools, documents must be from the current school year or the school year immediately preceding the application.
- f. For USDA Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools, documents must show that the student is enrolled in a CEP School. Acceptable documentation must include the name of the enrolled student, the relevant school year, the name and address of the school, and contact information for the school.
- g. For Federal Pell Grants, documents should be from the current award year and can include:
 - i. Screenshots that clearly document the student's receipt of a Pell Grant during the current award year, written confirmation from a student's school (college or university, community college, or career school) or the Department of Education that the student has received a Pell Grant for the current award year,
 - ii. Student's official financial aid award letter documenting the amount of a student's Pell Grant award received for the current award year, or
 - iii. Copy of a student's paid invoice that clearly documents the student's receipt of a Pell Grant during the current award year.

Does Your Service Provider Participate in the ACP Program?

Internet service providers (ISP) MUST have pre-registered with the FCC to enroll in the ACP program.

Go to this link and enter your zip code or village/town name.

<https://data.usac.org/publicreports/CompaniesNearMe/Download/Report>

Notes:

1. Most service providers only offer the monthly recurring discount. Few offer the one-time device subsidy.
2. A service provider cannot require a household to downgrade its service plan. If the household qualifies, the offered subsidy must be provided.

