



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

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Informational Letter

Section 1

Transmittal:	22-INF-02
To:	Social Services District Commissioners
Issuing Division/Office:	Employment and Income Support Programs
Date:	February 4, 2022
Subject:	Information Regarding the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program
Suggested Distribution:	Temporary Assistance Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators
Contact Person(s):	OTDA Employment and Advancement Services Bureau at: (518) 486-6106
Attachments:	Attachment 1 - Affordable Connectivity Program Flyer

Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to inform social services districts (districts) of the federal government’s Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a newly launched program that provides discounts of up to \$30 a month toward internet service for low-income families, as well as a one-time discount on the purchase of a computer or tablet.

II. Background

In accordance with Congressional directives in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) officially launched ACP on December 31, 2021 to provide millions of Americans with affordable internet access. The ACP is the \$14.2 billion successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit that helped nearly nine million people afford internet access during the pandemic.

The newly created ACP provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and

- A one-time device discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than \$10 but less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The ACP is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of several Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal Head Start (only households meeting the relevant income qualifying standard), Tribal 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 the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income program.

To enroll, eligible individuals should go to [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org) to submit an application or print out a mail-in application, contact their preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to their bill. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan in order to receive the benefit.

III. Program Implications

During Governor Hochul's January 5, 2022 State of the State presentation, she announced that the Department of Public Service, in coordination with other public-facing state agencies and Internet service providers, will lead a statewide, all-of-government awareness and marketing campaign under the Governor's ConnectALL Initiative to increase enrollment in the ACP among eligible New Yorkers. Such efforts will help ensure that low-income New Yorkers are able to afford the digital tools that are increasingly critical for access to employment and education opportunities.

Districts are encouraged to inform clients and other low-income individuals about the availability of the ACP and post the attached flyer in their lobby or other areas visible to visitors and the public. In addition to the flyer, the [FCC's website](https://www.fcc.gov) has a variety of consumer awareness content, including fact sheets, audio PSAs, and overview videos that are also helpful for outreach and education efforts.

Issued By:

Name: Valerie T. Figueroa

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Employment and Income Support Programs/Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance