ADVOCACY IN ACTION:
COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

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Agenda

01 State of the ACP

02 Accessing ACP Advocacy Resources

03 Steps to Engage with your Congressional Leaders

04 Q&A
State of the ACP
# ACP by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Households</th>
<th>Enrolled Households</th>
<th>Eligible Urban Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>52.5M</strong></td>
<td><strong>23.3M</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nearly ½</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eligible households</td>
<td>households enrolled (as of February 8)</td>
<td>of eligible urban households enrolled</td>
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**STATS**

- **8.5M** Black and/or Latinx households enrolled
- **1.2M** veteran households enrolled
- **4.6M** senior households enrolled
- **1/3** of eligible rural households enrolled
**ACP Wind-Down Timeline**

- **January 25, 2024**: **First Notice to Consumers**
  - Providers must notify ACP Households at least 3 times.
  - **Notice to Consumers #1**: Sent by January 25th

- **February 7, 2024**: **Last Day for Enrollments**
  - By 11:59pm ET, eligible households must have approved applications and have enrolled in a plan.*
  - **Notice to Consumers #2**: Must be sent within 15 days of FCC announcement

- **March 4, 2024**: **FCC Announcement**
  - The FCC announced that April will be the last fully funded month of the ACP.
  - **Notice to Consumers #3**: 3rd notice will coincide with last billing cycle.**

- **April 2024**: **End of ACP Funding**
  - April 2024 will be the last fully funded month, unless Congress takes action to pass additional funding.

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* After 2/7, consumers can still transfer their benefit to another ISP, however, it will be up to the new ISP to accept that transfer.

** Note: 2nd and 3rd notices will include impact on bill.
The Affordable Connectivity Program

Extension Act of 2024

1. Directs treasury to reallocate $7 billion in unspent funds for ACP
2. Will extend the program until end of 2024
3. Does not create new debt
4. Does not change the program
STATE OF ACP IN CONGRESS

The Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act of 2024

- Introduced January 10th — bicameral/bipartisan
  - HR 6929 - 204 co-sponsors
  - S. 3565 - 3 co-sponsors

- Assigned to Appropriations Committees

- Need more Republican Co-Sponsors
  - All co-sponsors are important

- Senate bill could skip committee
  - Working with Majority Leader Schumer to build support

- House bill could become appropriations
  - March 22nd deadline for FCC funding

- Other amendments and bills
  - Ongoing negotiations; additional language could be added to the bill or submitted as a separate bill
  - Details TBD
Pathways for ACP Renewal

**Appropriations**

**TIMELINE**
March 22nd for FCC funding

- Ongoing ACP bill activity impacts the likelihood of this (more support = more likely)
- Opportunity to include ACP bill language in appropriations

**ACP Extension Bill**

**TIMELINE**
Theoretically anytime, but the bill has to go to committee before it goes to a floor vote

- Assigned to Appropriations Committees in both chambers (only committee assigned)
- Option to bypass appropriations and go straight to the floor
- Needs more co-sponsor support
ACP Renewal Media Mentions

1,624 media mentions since the ACP enrollment pause on February 7th!

2,352,976 estimated reach from social media mentions

7,235,293 estimated reach from non-social media mentions
Accessing ACP Advocacy Resources
ACCESSING ACP ADVOCACY RESOURCES

[Image of a laptop with the text: educationsuperhighway.org/acpbenefit/wind-down]
3 Steps to Engage with your Congressional Leaders
Get Started

1. Find the contact information for your congressional leaders

2. Call their office to ask them to support the ACP Extension Act

3. Go a step further and schedule a meeting with someone from their office
Step 1: Find Their Contact Information and Stance on ACP

CONTACT INFO
Visit Congress.Gov and enter your or your organization’s address to find the contact information for your Senators and Representative.

CHECK THEIR STANCE
There are currently 204 Representative co-sponsors and 3 Senate co-sponsors for the ACP Extension Act. Check to see if your congressional leaders are listed!

IS YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADER ALREADY LISTED AS A CO-SPONSOR?
Send a thank you message!
Step 2: Call Your Elected Officials

CALL BEST PRACTICES

- State that you are a constituent of and/or work in their district or state
- Include the proper bill number in the ask
- Make a clear and actionable ask
  ✓ “Please co-sponsor HR 6929/S.3565”
  x “Please support the ACP”
- Reiterate that ACP ends on April 30 and 23 million households may lose internet

$14.2B
for first ever broadband affordability program (ACP)

23M
American households that could face a higher bill, some will lose access

77%
say losing the ACP will disrupt their service by making them change their plan or drop internet service entirely

Source: FCC 2023 Survey
My name is << First Name >> << Last Name >>. I am contacting you as a concerned constituent of << State >> to urge you to support the Affordable Connectivity Program or ACP by co-sponsoring HR 6929/S.3565.

Your constituents need your support! The ACP has helped more than 23 million low-income households nationwide to get and stay online, but funding is set to run out at the end of April.

If Congress fails to fund this program, these households will face an unaffordable increase in their monthly internet bill and may be forced offline.
STEPS TO ENGAGE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

What to Expect When Calling

WHO WILL I TALK TO
- You will likely speak with a scheduler or staffer
- You can keep the message simple – the staffer won’t ask questions on the topic

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE
- Calls typically last 2 to 5 minutes

SHOULD I FOLLOW UP
- Yes! You can ask for the email of the staffer you speak with and send them your data on the ACP’s impact in your state!

Note: The staffer/scheduler may ask for your name and address to confirm you are a constituent.
3 Steps to Engage with your Congressional Leaders

MEETING EDITION
STEPS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

Go A Step Further: **Schedule A Meeting**

The best way to schedule a meeting with your elected official varies by office.

**VISIT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADER’S WEBSITE**
- Might be under “Services,” “Contact Us,” or something similar
- Look for **Scheduling Request/Schedule A Meeting**

**YOU MAY BE ASKED TO SELECT A MEETING TYPE**
Constituent Meeting

**YOU MAY BE ASKED TO PROVIDE A CATEGORY FOR THE MEETING**
- Telecommunications & Broadband
- HR 6929 or S.3565
Step 3: Scheduling A Meeting

MEETING BEST PRACTICES

- Introduce yourself and your organization
  - Provide a 30-second description of your organization's work
- Mention that you are located in and/or serve the district or state
- **Explain why the ACP is important** to you and/or your organization
- Include examples of the ACP work you’ve done
- **Share any success stories**
- **Share concerns** you have about the program ending:
  - For your organization – like trustworthiness
  - For beneficiaries – losing jobs, not making appointments, etc.
  - For future broadband development
- Always end reiterating that you are **asking the member to co-sponsor the HR 6929/S.3565 bill**
What to Expect When Scheduling A Meeting

**WHO WILL I TALK TO**
- A staffer versus the Congress member
- Virtual is okay

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE**
- Meetings are usually scheduled for 30 minutes but will often be around 15

**SHOULD I FOLLOW UP**
- Yes! After the meeting, send a thank you and any resources you discussed.
- If you can’t get a meeting through the online portal, call the office to schedule

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**Note:** If you are asked a question you don’t know the answer to, it’s ok to say you don’t know!
Congressional staffers often cover many policy areas, so while they may be generally knowledgeable about ACP they do not know as much as you know.

Staffers rely on constituents and organizations like yours to gather some of this information and understand the needs of the people they serve.

If any data/examples/stories are interesting to you, they will be interesting to the staffers too. Share those! For example,

- How many enrollment events have you had?
- How many eligible beneficiaries have you contacted? In which ways?
- Have you come up with any unique/creative strategies?
- What lessons have you learned?
- In what other ways have you seen benefits? (Healthcare, education, employment)
Crafting Your Meeting Talking Points

77% of the survey respondents say losing their ACP benefit would disrupt their service by making them change their plan or drop internet service entirely.

47% of urban households reported having either no internet service or relying solely on mobile internet service prior to receiving their ACP benefit. The same is true for rural respondents (53%).

68% reported they had inconsistent internet service or no internet service at all prior to ACP. The majority of this group cited affordability as the reason for having inconsistent or no service (80%).

ACP subscribers reported that they use their ACP internet service to:

- 72% schedule or attend healthcare appointments
- 48% apply for jobs or complete work
- 75% do schoolwork

18-24 years old

Source: FCC 2023 Survey
STEPS TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

High-Level ACP Talking Points

- 23 million Americans rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program to connect or stay connected to the internet
- Access to home internet increases the annual income of under-resourced households by $2,200
- Affordability is the #1 reason households are not connected to the internet
- If ACP benefits are stripped from consumers, it will erode trust in community organizations that have been involved with ACP enrollment, and will make it harder to achieve universal connectivity
- If ACP lapses, **2024 could be the first year in history that FEWER people are connected to the internet than the year before**
Wrap-Up

CALL

your congressional leaders before Friday, March 22.

Spread the word to your family, friends, colleagues, etc. and ask them to do the same.

Quantity matters!

MEET

with congressional leaders before mid-April.

Regardless of timing, it is important that elected officials hear about the impact of the ACP from those impacted!