

ACP Renewal Talking Points

Your individual or organizational story is the most impactful evidence we have for the ACP being successful. Your message to lawmakers should focus on what the ACP has meant to you (if you are enrolled) or what your organization has accomplished (including any events, enrollment initiatives, outreach, etc.).

Feel free to use these talking points to supplement your personal message.

BACKGROUND

- The ACP was part of the bipartisan infrastructure package passed in 2021.
- The ACP received an initial funding of \$14.2 billion.
- The ACP provides \$30 (or \$75 on Tribal lands) monthly subsidies to make broadband more affordable.
- The ACP also provides a one-time device subsidy of \$100 with participating providers.

NATIONWIDE IMPACT

- 23 million households rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program to get internet service and stay online.
- Thousands of organizations, including governments, community institutions, non-profits, and internet service providers, have participated in outreach and enrollment.
- Access to home internet increases the annual income of under-resourced households by \$2,200.¹
- The ACP has wide-ranging bipartisan support among voters.
- Home internet enables families to access online education, remote work, job training, telehealth, the social safety net, and critical government services.

DANGERS OF ACP ENDING

- If the ACP ends, 23 million American households will face a substantial increase in their monthly internet bill.
- Affordability is the number one reason why households are not connected to the internet.²
- Families will be forced to choose between internet or other bills if the subsidy suddenly ends.
- Community institutions are concerned about enrolling individuals in need when the government may end the program.
- If ACP benefits are stripped from consumers, it will erode trust in government assistance programs and make it harder to achieve universal connectivity.

1 Zuo, George W. 2021. "[Wired and Hired: Employment Effects of Subsidized Broadband Internet for Low-Income Americans.](#)" American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 13 (3): 447-82.

2 [Accelerating Affordable Connectivity Program Adoption Report](#)

THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT OF 2024 - HR2969 / S.3565

- The bill provides an additional \$7 billion in funding for the ACP.
- The funding extends the life of the program from April 2024 to November/December 2024.
- Consumer notices are set to go out on January 25, notifying consumers of the program ending and their internet bill going up.
- Further notices will be sent in February and March.
- Extending the ACP until the end of the year gives Congress and advocates time to contemplate a more permanent solution and explore other options like USF reform.
- We have made great progress in closing the digital divide through the ACP; if this bill does not pass before funding lapses, we risk losing all the progress and investments that have been made.