



What is the Affordable Connectivity Program:

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), created last year after the passage of the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure package, provides households living near the poverty line or enrolled in other federal-aid programs with up to \$30 per month for the internet package of their choosing from participating providers — and \$75 per month for people living on Tribal lands.

Why do we need it?

It has become increasingly difficult to participate in society without consistent and reliable access to broadband. Education, job opportunities, healthcare, and social connection have all been enhanced and made easier with advances in technology; however, the cost of broadband is still a significant barrier to access for many. Communities that have been historically marginalized, such as communities of color, low-wealth communities, those with disabilities, rural communities, and so on, often benefit later and at lower rates from technological advancements than those in predominantly white, middle-class, and suburban communities. The Affordable Connectivity Program bridges this gap by providing those who qualify with the assistance that makes their monthly broadband payments more affordable so that they can stay connected and take advantage of the benefits of reliable broadband access.

Unfortunately, at the current rate of uptake, funding for this program is likely to run out before May of 2024. Congress needs to act immediately to fund the program so that millions of Americans are not put in a position of choosing between a broadband payment that they can no longer afford or going without it altogether and sitting on the sidelines of our digital society.

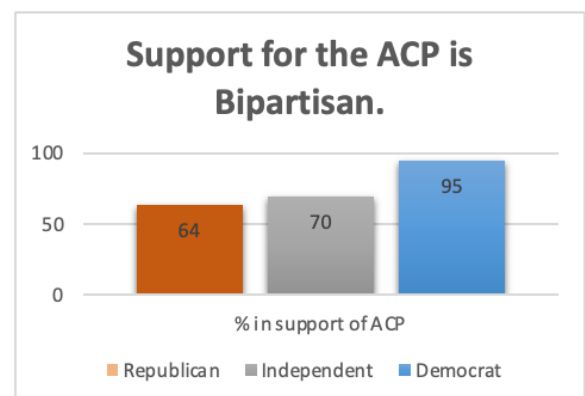
What can you do about it now?

Talk to your representative! Many members of Congress hold town hall meetings while they are in their districts to find out what issues matter to their constituents. To find out when and where they are, first, find your representative [here](#) and then check their websites or social media for information about their next event. You could also plan an in-district meeting with their office. Check out our [guide](#) on how to set these up.



Here's How to Talk About The ACP:

- The ACP has been a huge success — to date, ACP has connected approximately 18 out of over 50 million eligible households to broadband internet (i.e., 1 in 3 eligible households). These households are in every state and territory across the country.
 - [State-specific data points](#)
- The ACP is tremendously helpful in increasing broadband adoption:
 - Consumers who cannot afford broadband can get connected and stay connected, which is critical for education, health care, employment, and so much more.
 - Because of the ACP, providers can get more consumers on their networks, which helps support the business case for deploying broadband network infrastructure.
- The ACP benefit (\$30/month) results in increased employment rates and earnings, creating [more than \\$2,200 in economic benefit](#) for low-income households.
- The ACP can help lower the cost of providing health care for low-wealth families through greater use of telehealth services, [up to \\$141 per visit](#). Telehealth also helps reduce the strain on healthcare systems, reducing the number of unnecessary emergency room visits by 19%.
- Both the Federal Capital Projects Fund and BEAD Program require recipient participation in the ACP and/or proposed strategies to address affordability issues.
- The ACP has [bipartisan public support](#) - 78% of people overall (including 64% of Republicans; 70% of Independents; and 95% of Democrats), and with broad support regardless of where people live (Urban - 81%; Suburban - 78%; Rural - 68%)
- The ACP is supported by a broad range of stakeholders, including consumer groups, public interest organizations, broadband providers, and industry trade associations. These groups all urge Congress to continue funding the ACP.
- However, the ACP is in danger of running out of funds as soon as early 2024, meaning that providers will have to start winding down the program by the end of 2023, and there is a significant risk that consumers will lose the service that they depend upon. We need





Congress to allocate funding for ACP to prevent millions of families from losing internet access next year.

Bottom Line: Congress must extend ACP funding.