

# The Affordable Connectivity Program

A Valuable Tool for Getting Missourians Online

October 2022



Missouri Department of  
**Economic Development**

# Motivation

The cost of Internet and devices is the major barrier between many Missourians and their digital futures. This has serious consequences!

- Makes it harder to find jobs, develop new skills, and participate in the digital economy
- Complicates efforts to access services online – might be relevant to people on this call

The Affordable Connectivity program can help – but it is very undersubscribed

# Affordable Connectivity Benefits

- \$30 off the monthly cost of Internet from participating providers
- Free Internet from many providers (who offer ACP participants plans that cost less than \$30)
  - This includes AT&T, Spectrum, Comcast, MediacomCable, Cox
  - Full list at [getinternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov)
- \$100 toward a laptop/desktop/tablet, with a co-pay of \$10-\$50 (not all internet providers offer a device) See [fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers#Missouri](https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers#Missouri)

# Who Qualifies

- Household income less than 200% of the poverty line (\$55,500 for a family of four)
- Household member receives or participates in any of the following:
  - SNAP
  - WIC
  - SSI
  - Medicaid
  - Public Housing Assistance, including Section 8, project-based, public housing
  - Free/reduced lunch, including the Community Eligibility Provision
  - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefits
  - Lifeline
  - Pell Grant

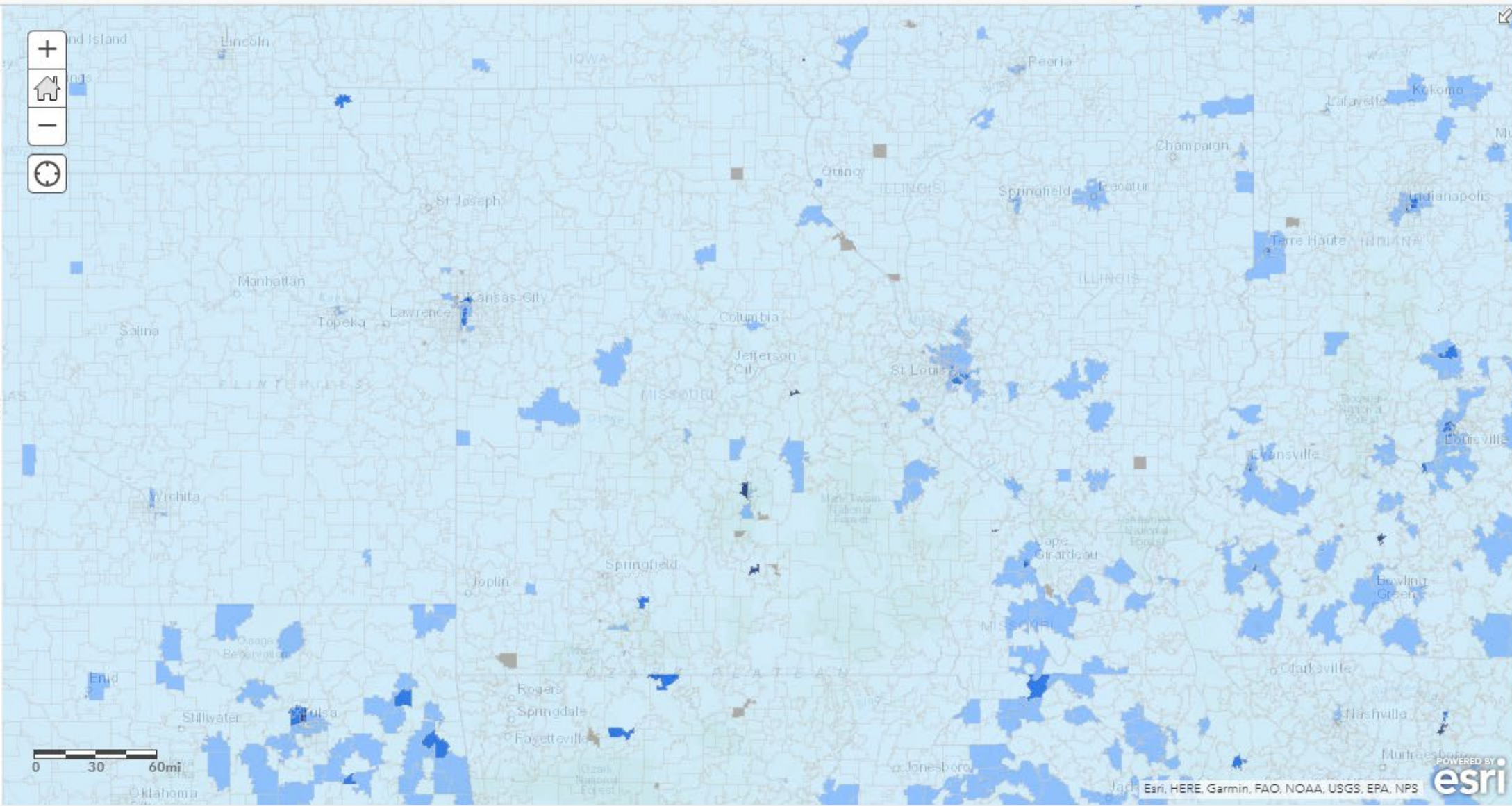
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Legend

ACP Enrollment/Eligibility (ZIP Code)

- Percent Enrolled
- No eligible households
  - 75% - 101%
  - 50% - 74%
  - 25% - 49%
  - 0 - 24%



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# How do they apply

- Go to [nv.fcc.gov](https://nv.fcc.gov)
- Apply by mail
- Apply through a provider (find a participating provider by using [affordableconnectivity.gov/companies-near-me](https://affordableconnectivity.gov/companies-near-me))

More details, including printable applications, are available at [affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply](https://affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply)



**MISSOURI PROVIDERS:**

- Access Wireless
- AirVoice Wireless
- American Broadband
- Aptitude Internet
- Aristotle Unified Communications
- Assist Wireless
- Assurance Wireless
- AT&T
- Boftech
- Boost Mobile
- Boss Wireless
- Boycomm Cablevision
- Callabyte Technology
- Cathect Communications
- CenturyLink
- Chariton Valley Telephone Corporation
- Chariton Valley Communications
- Corporation Wireless Services
- Chariton Valley Telephone CO.
- Circle Fiber
- Cintex Wireless
- Citizens Telephone Company
- Clear Wireless
- Comcast (Xfinity)
- Co-Mo Connect
- Consolidated Communications Telephone Cooperative
- Cricket Wireless
- Culture Wireless
- Dailytel
- Diode Communications
- Earthlink
- Easy Wireless
- enTouch Wireless
- Excess Telecom
- Fidelity Communications
- Foundation for California Community Colleges
- Gateway Fiber
- Gen Mobile
- goBec Fiber Network
- good2go mobile
- Google Fiber Inc.
- GoSemo
- Green Hills Telephone
- GRM Networks
- Hello Mobile Telecom
- Hughes Network Systems
- human-I-T
- IAMO Communications
- Infiniti Mobile
- Insight Mobile, Inc.
- K20 Wireless
- Kennett City Light Gas and Water
- KwiKom Communications
- Le-Ru Broadband and Telephone
- Liberty Mobile Wireless
- Life Wireless
- Lingo
- LTC Networks
- LTE Wireless
- Maxsip Telecom
- McDonald County Telephone Company
- Mediacom
- Mercury Broadband
- Metro by T-Mobile
- Mid-States Services Center
- Midwest Data
- MOKAN Communications
- NEMR Telecom
- Net Vision Communications
- Otelco
- OREGON FARMERS
- MUTUAL TEL CO
- PCs for People
- PD Fiber
- Peace Valley Telephone Co.
- Q Link Wireless
- RadioWire.net
- Ready Wireless
- Rise Broadband
- Rock Port Telephone Company
- Rural4G
- SandyNet
- Sano Health
- Selectel Wireless
- Socket Telecom
- Sparklight
- Spectrum (Charter)
- Splash Wireless Internet
- StandUp Wireless
- STE Communications
- Suddenlink
- SurgePhone Wireless
- SWA CONNECT
- Synergy Internet
- Tempo Telecom
- TerraCom
- TAG Mobile
- Torch Wireless
- TOAST.net Internet Service
- Tone Communication Services
- Total Highspeed
- TracFone Wireless
- TruConnect
- Twigby
- U2 CONNECT NOW
- US Connect
- U.S. Cellular
- UVNV
- Verizon
- Viasat
- Windstream
- Wisper ISP
- Yondoo Broadband
- Zito West Holding

# How can we help?

- Send program participants proof that they qualify
- Alert the public that the benefit exists and that they may qualify
- Train public-facing staff to help sign people up for the program (FCC offers train-the-trainer service)

The FCC has a lot of resources available at [fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit](https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit)





## Affordable Connectivity Program

### Helping Households Connect

Hello,

Did you know **you automatically qualify for a \$30 monthly discount on your home or mobile internet service** through the Federal Communications Commission's [Affordable Connectivity Program](#)? The [AGENCY/ENTITY NAME] is encouraging all [PROGRAM NAME] recipients/beneficiaries to claim this new benefit and start saving on your internet service.

You are also eligible for a one-time discount of \$100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if you pay a \$10 to \$50 co-pay.

To apply visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](#) or call 1-877-384-2575 to request an application. Once you complete the application you can contact a [participating internet service provider](#) to start receiving your monthly discount.

Cost shouldn't be a barrier to getting online. Being connected can help you find job opportunities and access telehealth services, saving you time and transportation costs. And with affordable internet services, students no longer need to rely on public Wi-Fi hotspots to do their homework or for distance

*To edit this document, please make a copy and save it to your personal drive.*

**[School/District Letterhead]**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Date

**[District]** would like to make you aware of the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**, a federal government program that provides:

- Up to \$30 a month (up to \$75 on qualifying Tribal Lands) **discount on Internet service** per eligible household, and,
- A one-time, up to \$100 discount for a connected device (such as a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet) purchased through a participating provider. Each participating household is limited to a single device discount.

Internet access has become an important part of fully participating in school and we want to make sure **[student's name]** has reliable, affordable access at home. As your student(s) attends a

# Funding ACP Promotion

- Digital Demonstration Projects: ACP sign-ups are one of the eligible activities under this grant program that will roll out this year. \$250K total; grants \$10-25K
- Grants through the Digital Equity Act: still in the planning process, but the state could receive +\$20M
- Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grants: FCC program; details to follow; 20 grants worth up to \$5M
- Your Home, Your Internet: FCC pilot program targeting public housing

# Meanwhile at the OBD...

- Launching a statewide tour to discuss barriers people face getting online + design of upcoming programs
- Digital demonstration projects can also fund affordable device programs and training digital navigator programs
- Huge investments coming in broadband infrastructure

If you want updates: [bit.ly/MObroadband](https://bit.ly/MObroadband)

**[Tour dates TKTKTK]**

# Questions / Resources

- [bit.ly/ACPtools](https://bit.ly/ACPtools) (Tools and sample material for outreach)
- [nv.fcc.gov](https://nv.fcc.gov) (National Verifier)
- [fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers#Missouri](https://fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers#Missouri)
- [getinternet.gov](https://getinternet.gov) (Free providers)
- [bit.ly/ACPschools](https://bit.ly/ACPschools) (schools toolkit)
- [bit.ly/ACPhomes](https://bit.ly/ACPhomes) (housing assistance mini-guide)