

Affordable Connectivity Program update: The “wind-down” preparation, details

In 2021, Congress established the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, appropriating \$14.2 billion. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was tasked with developing and implementing the ACP as well as ACP outreach and awareness activities.

As of January 2024, more than 22 million households are enrolled and receiving the ACP monthly benefit.

What’s happening?

Without additional funding from Congress, the allotted \$14.2 billion to fund the ACP is projected to run out in April 2024 (this date is an estimate and may change). As a result, the FCC has begun taking steps to wind down the ACP, which means:

- ACP applications and enrollments will not be processed after Feb. 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET.
- Households that have applied, been approved and are receiving the monthly internet discount before Feb. 8, 2024, will continue to receive their ACP benefit until ACP funds run out, as long as the household remains enrolled in the program.
- After the ACP funds run out (projected in April 2024), households participating in the ACP will no longer receive the ACP discounts.

What does this mean for low-income households not in the ACP?

- Because of the wind down of the program, the ACP will need to stop new enrollments. Starting Feb. 8, 2024, no new enrollments will be accepted.
- Eligible households that are not already enrolled and wish to receive the ACP benefit should complete an application at GetInternet.gov as soon as possible to allow time for the processing of your application. Once your application is qualified, you must sign up with an internet company by Feb. 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET to start receiving your benefit.
- If you qualified for the ACP but you do not sign up with an internet company before Feb. 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET, then you can no longer enroll in the ACP.

How does wind-down impact enrolled ACP households?

- Households that are enrolled in ACP will continue to receive monthly discounted internet service through the end of the ACP.
- During the ACP wind-down period, ACP households will receive notices from their internet company about the impact of the end of the benefit on the household’s bill and service. The notices will tell households:

- That the ACP is ending
- The impact on their bill
- The date of the last bill they will receive that includes the ACP benefit
- That they can change their service or opt out of continuing service after the end of the ACP

ACP households can also switch their internet plans without penalty. ACP households should:

- Check their email for more information and for further updates regarding the ACP benefit. Also visit <http://www.AffordableConnectivity.gov> and www.fcc.gov/acp.
- Contact their internet company for questions about how the end of the ACP will affect their monthly bill and to ask about available options.
- Visit www.fcc.gov/acp to access answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other guidance about the ACP wind-down process, including what households need to know about retaining internet service after the end of the ACP.
- Contact USAC directly for any questions about the ACP wind-down. Households can call the ACP Support Center at 877-384-2575 for information about their benefit.

What are the important dates I should be aware of regarding the ACP wind-down?

- Feb. 7, 2024: This is the last day the ACP will accept new applications and enrollments. Eligible households must be approved and enrolled with an internet company by 11:59 p.m. ET on Feb. 7 to receive the ACP benefit. Starting Feb. 8, 2024, there will be **no more** enrollments into the ACP.
- Starting in late January 2024: Households that currently receive a monthly ACP benefit will start to receive notices from their internet providers with information about the end of the ACP benefit. This information will include timing of the end of the program and the impact of the loss of the benefit on the household’s bill and service.

April 2024: The FCC anticipates existing ACP funding to run out in April 2024 if Congress does not provide additional funding. Consumers who are enrolled in the ACP will continue to receive their benefit on their internet service through April 2024. This date is an estimate and may change.

If you have any questions for the ACP navigator, you can reach Lynetta Cuomo at 541-270-4351 or email lynettac@ctsi.nsn.us (please note everything listed here is the updated known information as of mid-January and it will be updated again when more information is shared). I’m sincerely sorry for any inconveniences this may cause. FCC complaints can be directed to <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us>.

USDA distribution dates for February

Siletz			Salem		
Friday	Feb. 2	1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Tuesday	Feb. 13	9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Monday	Feb. 5	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Wednesday	Feb. 14	9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Feb. 6	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Thursday	Feb. 15	By appt only
Wednesday	Feb. 7	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.			
Thursday	Feb. 8	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.			

Sammy Hall, USDA Program Director
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Fax: 541-444-8306 or 503-391-4296

The Portland Area Office is now at:
3220 SW First Ave., Suite 200
Portland, OR 97239
Phone: 503-238-1512
Fax: 503-238-2436

LIKE us on Facebook at Siletz Tribal FDPIR. We would like to see more people sharing their recipes on our FB page.



Hamburger Stroganoff

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 small onions, diced
- 2 teaspoons garlic paste
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 2 boxes whole grain rotini, cooked
- 1 container sour cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook hamburger, onion and garlic paste in saucepan until done; season with salt and pepper. Add cream of mushroom soup and heat through. Remove from heat and let cool just a bit.

Cook the pasta according to package directions. We have found that it needs a little extra salt in the water to give it flavor.

Add the sour cream to the meat mixture and stir well.

Add sour cream and meat mixture to the pasta, heat and serve.

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