



# THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Digital Literacy Volunteer In-Service  
Host: Lydia Torres, Digital Literacy Program Coordinator





LiteracyCNY created our Digital Literacy program with the mission of narrowing the digital divide. While smartphones are prevalent, they cannot perform all of the tasks that desktops or laptops can. Lack of computers in homes or easy access to the internet has serious economic and social consequences. Without a computer and internet access, computer skills become much harder to acquire, and access to invaluable information, jobs and services is severely constricted.

## History

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program 2021

Affordable Connectivity Program 2022



The federal communications commission established the Broadband Benefit Program, a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to help lower the cost of internet during the Covid-19 pandemic. In November 2021, Congress passed the bipartisan infrastructure bill, included in this bill was \$14 billion to provide what the BBP did, on a long-term scale. This resulted in the establishment of the Affordable Connectivity Program. If anything good came out of the covid-19 pandemic, it is that when offices closed and went remote, politicians on a local, state, and federal scale were faced with the harsh reality of the digital divide in the nation.

## Affordable Connectivity Program Benefits



Up to \$30/month  
towards broadband  
service from  
participating providers



Up to \$75/month  
towards broadband  
service for households  
on tribal lands, including  
Hawaiian Home Lands



A one-time discount of  
up to \$100 to purchase  
a laptop, desktop,  
computer, or tablet



## Who Qualifies for the ACP?

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines;
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, SafeLink etc.
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, etc.
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program in the current or immediately preceding school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.



## Ways to Apply for the ACP



Apply online at [Affordableconnectivity.gov](https://Affordableconnectivity.gov)



Print out and mail in a paper eligibility application



Apply directly through a participating internet provider



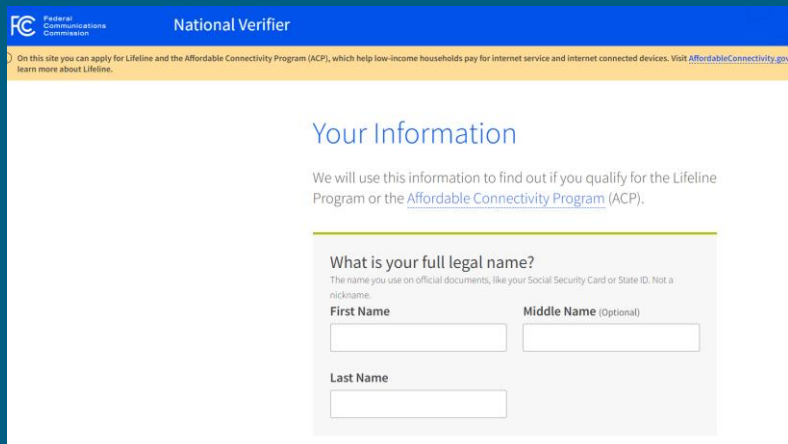
## Things to Consider When Applying

- Does the customer already have a wifi connection?
- Does their current internet provider participate in the ACP?
- Does the customer have an email account they have access to?
- What do they want to do with the device they plan on purchasing?
- Unsure if they will qualify? Apply anyways!!!

Taking into consideration questions like these will help you decide which way is best!



# Apply Online at Affordableconnectivity.gov



**FC** Federal Communications Commission **National Verifier**

On this site you can apply for Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which help low-income households pay for internet service and internet connected devices. Visit [AffordableConnectivity.gov](https://affordableconnectivity.gov) to learn more about Lifeline.

## Your Information

We will use this information to find out if you qualify for the Lifeline Program or the [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#).

**What is your full legal name?**  
The name you use on official documents, like your Social Security Card or State ID. Not a nickname.

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Name (Optional)</b>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Last Name</b>	
<input type="text"/>	



When you click 'apply now' on the website, you will be taken to the National Verifier site, where you will need to enter your name, date of birth, proof of identity (ssn, tribal ID number, or driver's license number), and address.



# Apply Online at Affordableconnectivity.gov



National Verifier

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## Create Your Account

Making an account will let us keep your information safe. It will also let you save it and come back to it any time.

### Choose your username.

Choose something you can easily remember. You can also use your email address or your name in some form.

Username

### Choose your password.

Make sure it is something you can remember. It has to follow the requirements below.

Password Requirements

Password



Next, you will need to make an account. This requires an email address.

# Apply Online at Affordableconnectivity.gov

Federal Communications Commission National Verifier

On this site you can apply for Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which help low-income households pay for internet service. [Learn more about Lifeline.](#)

## Sign In To Your Account

Username


[Forgot your username?](#)

Password

Show Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

By signing in, I accept the [terms and conditions](#) of the National Verifier system.



Next, you will be taken to this page where you will sign-in with the account information you just created.

## Apply Online at Affordableconnectivity.gov

Are you or someone in your household in any of these?

Choose one.

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Programs
- Federal Pell Grant in the current award year
- Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch or Breakfast Program, or enrollment in a USDA Community Eligibility Provision School in the current school year
- Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Tribal Specific Program (only choose if you live on Tribal lands)
- I don't participate in one of these programs, I want to qualify through my income.

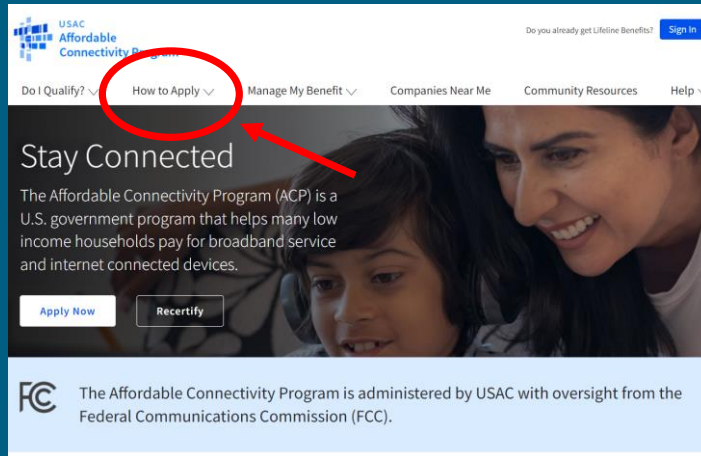
Save

Next



Once logged in, click apply for ACP. Here is where one will be required to prove your eligibility. This will require one to provide proof that they participate in one of these programs, or they can upload proof of their income. After this process, one's application will be complete once submitted.

## Print Out & Mail in a Paper Eligibility Application







Click the how to apply tab on the main page of the acp site.

# Print Out & Mail in a Paper Eligibility Application



## Mail

Print an application: [English](#)  [Spanish](#)  ([Application Instructions](#) also available in 9 other languages)

USAC strongly recommends including a Household Worksheet with your application: [English](#)  [Spanish](#)  ([Household Worksheet Instructions](#) also available in 9 other languages)

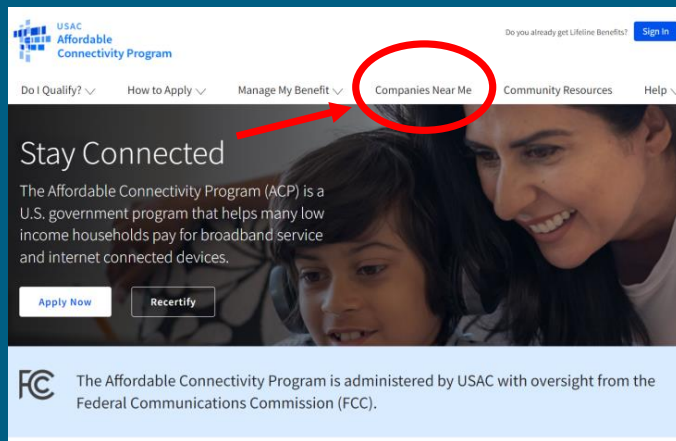
Complete the application and Household Worksheet and send them, along with copies of your proof documentation, to:

ACP Support Center  
PO Box 7081  
London, KY 40742



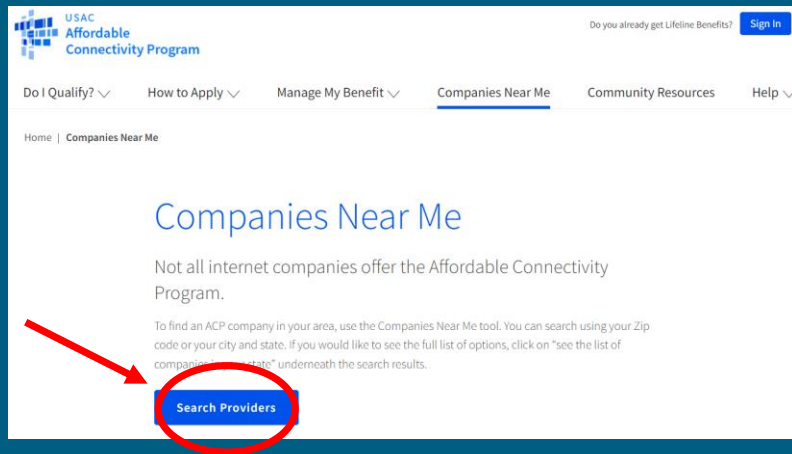
When you scroll down you will see the mailing option outlined

# Apply Directly through a Participating Internet Provider



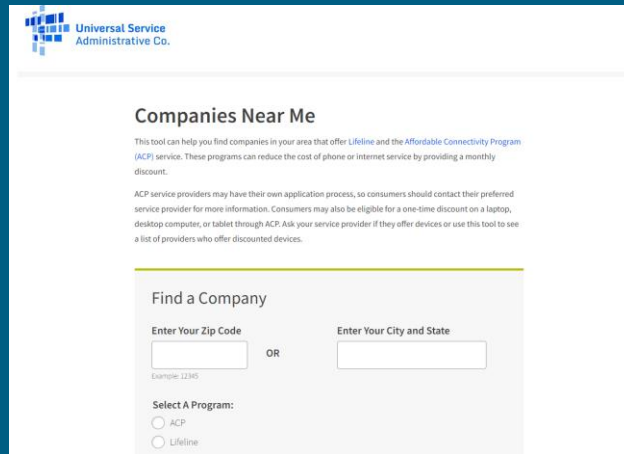
Go to 'companies near me' on the ACP homepage.

# Apply Directly through a Participating Internet Provider



Click search providers, you will be notified that you are leaving the ACP website, confirm this.

# Apply Directly through a Participating Internet Provider



The screenshot shows a web interface for finding companies. At the top left is the logo for Universal Service Administrative Co. The main heading is "Companies Near Me". Below this is a paragraph explaining that the tool helps find companies offering Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) service, which can reduce the cost of phone or internet service. Another paragraph notes that ACP service providers may have their own application process and that consumers should contact their preferred provider for more information. Below the text is a search box titled "Find a Company" with two input fields: "Enter Your Zip Code" and "Enter Your City and State", separated by "OR". An example "12345" is shown below the zip code field. At the bottom, there is a "Select A Program:" section with two radio buttons: "ACP" and "Lifeline".

Universal Service Administrative Co.

## Companies Near Me

This tool can help you find companies in your area that offer Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) service. These programs can reduce the cost of phone or internet service by providing a monthly discount.

ACP service providers may have their own application process, so consumers should contact their preferred service provider for more information. Consumers may also be eligible for a one-time discount on a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet through ACP. Ask your service provider if they offer devices or use this tool to see a list of providers who offer discounted devices.

### Find a Company

Enter Your Zip Code  OR Enter Your City and State

Example: 12345

Select A Program:

ACP


Lifeline



Enter your zipcode, city, or state.



# Apply Directly through a Participating Internet Provider

Showing 25 of 99 companies Download List: 

Company Name	Phone	Type of Service	\$0 with ACP ▼	Discounted Device ▼
Access Wireless*	866-594-3644	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
AirVoice Wireless, LLC*	877-247-7799	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
Assurance Wireless*	800-937-8997	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
AT&T Mobility LLC	866-986-0963	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes
Cintex Wireless, LLC	800-931-0141	Mobile Internet	Yes	Yes



Here is an example of results for the zip code 13204.

The "**\$0 with ACP**" column indicates that a service provider offers one or more plans that are covered in full by the ACP discount and by choosing one of those plans your monthly cost for service is \$0.

The "**Discounted Device**" column indicates that a service provider offers a discounted laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. To get this discount, you must pay more than \$10 and no more than \$50 toward the purchase price. The device must be purchased through the provider.

Since the first Digital Literacy Volunteer shift in May...



OVER 400  
HOURS  
LOGGED



147  
CUSTOMERS  
HELPED



OVER 250  
COMPLETED  
TASKS



OVER 30 JOB  
APPLICATIONS  
SUBMITTED

THANK YOU FOR EMPOWERING LIVES  
THROUGH LITERACY!!!



Program data through September 2022

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