



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES REIMBURSEMENT RATE ESTIMATES FOR MAY 2024 AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM BENEFITS

### WC Docket No. 21-450

In this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) reminds providers that May 2024 will be the last month for which providers will be able to seek reimbursement for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefits passed through to ACP households.<sup>1</sup> We further remind providers that, absent additional funding from Congress, the ACP will not be able to reimburse providers for the full statutory benefit amount for service and device benefits applied to ACP service bills in May 2024.<sup>2</sup> To allow providers to plan for May service month offerings and to provide notice to their ACP households regarding May 2024 ACP service, we list below an estimated reimbursement range for each benefit type, within which the partial reimbursement amount may fall.

Benefit Type	Statutory Maximum	Estimated Maximum Reimbursement Range for May 2024
Non-Tribal Service Benefit	\$30 per month <sup>3</sup>	\$7 - \$16
Tribal Lands Service Benefit	\$75 per month <sup>4</sup>	\$18 - \$39
ACP Connected Device Benefit	\$100 per device <sup>5</sup>	\$24 - \$53

The estimates presented in the above table take into account factors such as open claims for past service months, recent program activity, and claims trends. These are estimated ranges and the final maximum reimbursement amounts announced in April may fall outside this range. The Antideficiency

<sup>1</sup> *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces the Final Month of the Affordable Connectivity Program*, Public Notice, DA 24-195, at 1 (WCB Mar. 4, 2024) (*March 4th Public Notice*) (explaining that April 2024 would be the last fully funded month for the ACP benefit and that May 2024 would only be a partially funded month for the ACP benefit).

<sup>2</sup> *March 4th Public Notice* at 1-2.

<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(7)(A).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1752(b)(5). Providers seeking to claim reimbursement for ACP devices provided to ACP households in May 2024 shall satisfy all Commission requirements related to device reimbursement, including that the provider shall “shall charge and collect from the eligible household than \$10.00 but less than \$50.00 for such connected device.” 47 CFR § 54.1803(b).

Act precludes an agency from making or authorizing an expenditure from, or creating or authorizing an obligation under, any appropriation or fund in excess of the amount available in the appropriation.<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we present this estimate as a range solely to assist providers in preparing for the May service month. It is not being shared for the purpose of communicating the minimum or maximum possible reimbursement amounts for May 2024.

We anticipate that after the closing of the September 2023-January 2024 claims window on April 1, 2024,<sup>7</sup> the Bureau, in coordination with the Office of Economics and Analytics and Office of the Managing Director, will have sufficient data to provide final maximum reimbursement amounts for May 2024. The final maximum reimbursement amount will be announced by the Bureau in April 2024.

Providers are not required to pass through any benefits to ACP households after April 2024.<sup>8</sup> Providers can choose whether to pass on and claim the partial reimbursement for May service. Providers may also, but are not required to, offer a discount larger than the estimated reimbursement rate announced by the Bureau. Providers are prohibited from billing ACP households for more than what they would pay had the full ACP benefit been applied to the bill if the household has not opted in to paying a higher amount.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, providers offering ACP-supported service and devices in May 2024 are expected to fully comply with the ACP rules. Providers must provide service to ACP households subject to the same terms as non-ACP households,<sup>10</sup> and they may claim only those households to which they provided service at the time of the snapshot date.<sup>11</sup>

Finally, we direct providers to notify the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) of their intent to participate during the May 2024 service month by filling out the survey that USAC will distribute to providers. USAC will distribute the survey to providers within a week of release of this public notice. Providers will have two weeks from distribution of the survey to respond. Timely responses to the survey will aid our administration of the wind-down.

For further information about the Public Notice, contact Negheen Sanjar, Attorney Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau by email at [Negheen.Sanjar@fcc.gov](mailto:Negheen.Sanjar@fcc.gov).

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<sup>6</sup> 31 U.S.C. § 1341(a)(1)(A).

<sup>7</sup> *Affordable Connectivity Program*, WC Docket No. 21-450, Order, DA 24-23, at 11, paras. 28-29 (WCB Jan. 11, 2024) (*ACP Wind-Down Order*); see also USAC, *ACP Enrollment Freeze Begins February 8* (Feb. 5, 2024), <https://www.usac.org/wp-content/uploads/about/documents/acp/bulletins/ACP-Enrollment-Freeze-Begins-February-8.pdf>; USAC, *ACP Newsletter - January 2024* (Jan. 30, 2024), <https://www.usac.org/wp-content/uploads/about/documents/acp/bulletins/ACP-Newsletter-January-2024.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> *ACP Wind-Down Order* at 12, para. 31.

<sup>9</sup> See *ACP Wind-Down Order* at 6-8, paras. 15-19.

<sup>10</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 1752(b)(7).

<sup>11</sup> 47 CFR § 54.1808(a).