# ACP Wind Down

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Amy Huffman, Policy Director

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# Today's Agenda

- 1. ACP State of Play
- 2. The FCC's ACP Wind-Down Report & Order
- 3. Discussion

## **ACP State of Play**

#### **ACP Extension Act**

- Appropriates \$7B to extend ACP
- Draft Bill Language
- House Version: <u>H.R.6929</u>
  - Sponsors: Reps. Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY-09), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01), Michael Lawler (R-NY-17), Marcus Molinaro (R-NY-19) and Anthony D'Esposito (R-NY-4).
- Senate Version: <u>S.3565</u>
  - Sponsors: Sens. Peter Welch (D-VT), J.D. Vance (R-OH), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Kevin Cramer (R-ND)

## What You Can Do

#### **Advocacy**

- Reach out to your member(s) of Congress:
  - Ask to co-sponsor bill
  - Ask to Support the bill/ACP in general
- Highlight the bill on social media
- Share the bill/info w/ your networks
- Continue collecting & sharing stories of why
   ACP matters (share w/ us & your community)



## **Advocacy Resources**

- Press Release
- Social Media Toolkit
- Final Endorsement List
- What They Are Saying (aka Supportive Statements)
- ACLU's Contact Congress Letter
- NDIA's Advocacy Page





# ACP Wind-Down Order

# Key Takeaways

#### What do I need to know?

- The last fully funded month of the program is projected to be April
   2024
- The last day to enroll in the program will be February 7, 2024
- ACP Outreach Grantees will cease enrollment activities on that date
- The last fully funded month will be announced in late February, which will trigger further provider notifications to ACP households



## What will we discuss today?

- Enrollment freeze
- Notifications from the FCC, USAC, and providers
- Opt-in requirements to roll over service
- ACP Outreach Grantees
- High-Cost Area Benefit





## **Enrollment Freeze**

# The last day to enroll will be February 7, 2024 at 11:59pm EST

 Enrollment in the ACP program will freeze on February 8, 2024





## **FCC Notifications**

- 60 days prior to the end of the last fully funded month, FCC will announce the last fully funded month of ACP
  - Example: Current forecast of last fully funded month is April 2024.
     If this estimate holds, we would expect an FCC announcement on March 1, 2024





## **Provider Notifications**

- Providers required to notify customers 3 times in writing
  - Notice #1: January 25, 2024 (2 weeks from order publication date)
  - Notice #2: Fifteen days after FCC announces last fully funded month of ACP (~est mid-March)
  - Notice #3: Issued during the customer's last bill or last billing cycle with ACP benefit





## **Provider Notifications Cont.**

#### **Required Information**

- Notification #1: Possibility of ACP's end and potential impact on their bill
- Notifications #2 and #3:
  - ACP is ending and date of last bill ACP will be applied
  - Bill amount without ACP discount OR statement that customer will be subjected to undiscounted rates per terms conditions
  - Ability to change their service and/or to opt out of continuing their service at the end of the ACP



## **Provider Notifications Cont.**

#### **Optional Information**

- Provider's low-cost or low-income plans
- Phone number and/or website link to this information





## **Provider Notifications Cont.**

#### **Method of Communication**

- In writing and accessible to persons with disabilities
- No other specific wording or format
- Consistent with user preferences (e.g., email, text, paper mail)
- providers are also encouraged to run awareness

campaigns about the end of the program



## **FCC and USAC Communications**

- Update all websites
   (FCC/USAC/GetInternet.gov) and
   communication materials to raise
   awareness of ACP wind down
- USAC will directly notify ACP Households multiple times





# **Opt-In Requirements**

# Providers do need an additional opt-in to continue service if:

- The consumer had **not** already been an active customer prior to applying the ACP benefit to their plan
- The consumer is **not** paying any amount for their internet service (i.e., the ACP discount fully covers their bill)





# **Opt-in Requirements**

# Providers do not need additional opt-in to continue service if:

 Household acknowledgment of review of disclosures when they enrolled in EBB or ACP







## **Opt-in Requirements**

#### Providers do not need additional opt-in to continue service if:

#### 2. Demonstrated willingness and ability to pay by:

- Have informed their provider, either orally or in writing, that the provider may continue providing broadband service after end of ACP, or
- b. The consumer had already been an active customer prior to applying the ACP benefit to their plan, or
- c. The consumer currently pays a fee for their ACP-supported broadband service (i.e., the ACP discount does not fully cover their bill)



### **ACP Outreach Grantees**

#### What We Know

- Grantees will cease grant-funded enrollment activities when FCC freezes enrollment on Feb 7, 2024
- FCC will issue additional communication and instruction on winding down grant-funded activities to grantees





## **Implications**

#### **Federal Programs**

- High-Cost Area Benefit offer is shut down
   Possible reevaluation pending further funding.
- BEAD-funded networks will be impacted
- Capital Project Funded networks will be impacted
- DEA plans will be impacted



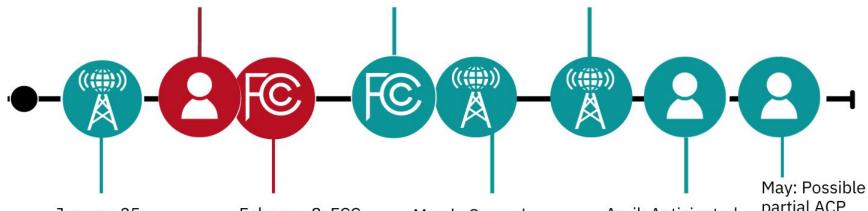




# **ACP** Wind-Down Timeline

February 7: Final Day for ACP Enrollment

Late February: Announcement of last fully funded month April 1: All provider claims from before freeze due



January 25: Deadline for first provider notice February 8: FCC Freezes ACP Enrollment March: Second provider notice deadline

April: Anticipated final month of full ACP benefit

partial ACP benefit available



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# THANK YOU!

