

EBB to ACP Transition

As part of the Infrastructure Act, Congress appropriated \$14 billion to fund a new Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) as a permanent replacement for the temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program.

EBB ended and ACP started on January 1, 2022. There is a 2 month transition period for existing EBB recipients, who will continue to receive a subsidy of up to \$50 for January and February. Starting March 1, 2022, the maximum benefit will be reduced to \$30. EBB recipients do not have to reverify their eligibility, they will automatically be transitioned to ACP. They may however have to pay more for their Internet service because of the reduced benefit.

Internet providers are required to notify customers of the new amount they will have to pay in order to continue at their current service level, and to obtain consent to continue service.

The following is a summary of the differences between ACP and EBB:

- Maximum benefit reduced from \$50/mo to \$30/mo
- Household income threshold raised from 135% of federal poverty level to 200%, which means more people will qualify
- Covid related substantial loss of income is no longer a qualifier
- Participation in the WIC program was added as a qualifier
- Additional documentation is now required to qualify on the basis of a student attending a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school
- A usage requirement was added, requiring customers to be de-enrolled after 30 consecutive days of non use (we are not clear on whether this only applies to fully subsidized customers)

We draw your attention to the following:

- An audit by the FCC Office of the Inspector General found people were fraudulently claiming to have a student attending a CEP school. Additional documentation on the school and student is now required. Please let us know if you qualified on this basis, you will probably have to requalify. (We are not aware of any CEP schools in our service area)
- Annual recertification of eligibility is required. We believe this means you will be contacted by USAC approximately 1 year after you qualified via the National Verifier, and will have 60 days to respond to recertification outreach.
- Remember that ACP is limited to one benefit per household.
- Remember to contact us if your eligibility changes or if you transfer your benefit to another provider
- You have the right to cancel service at any time, or to transfer your ACP benefit to another participating provider, without a termination penalty
- You can receive both ACP and Lifeline phone benefits, and they do not have to be from the same provider

The decreased benefit from \$50 to \$30 may cause your Internet bill to increase by as much as \$20/mo. If this is a problem, you can consider downgrading your service to a less expensive plan. KWISP also has an autopay + paperless billing option that provides a \$10/mo discount.