Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of the ACP Outreach Grant Program?
The goal of the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program (ACP Outreach Grant Program) is to facilitate the promotion of the ACP and increase awareness of and participation in the ACP among eligible households. To support this goal, the FCC seeks to enlist and empower trusted community messengers to develop innovative outreach strategies to reach historically underserved and unserved communities. This includes providing those partners with the funding and resources needed to increase participation among eligible, low-income households in need of an affordable internet connection.

2. What are the different grant programs associated with the ACP?
The ACP Outreach Grant Program is comprised of four complementary grant programs:
   - National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP)
   - Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP)
   - Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program (YHYI) Outreach Grants
   - ACP Navigator Pilot Program (NPP) Outreach Grants

   The ACP Outreach Grant Program NOFO will solely focus on NCOP and TCOP. A separate NOFO will be released on November 21, 2022, for applicants seeking grant funds for the YHYI and NPP pilot programs.

3. What are the objectives that support the ACP Outreach Grant Program goal?
To support the ACP Outreach Grant Program goal, the FCC has identified three objectives:
   - Expand and support diverse and impactful outreach efforts nationwide;
   - Strengthen outreach partners nationwide by empowering them to mobilize people and organizations to help raise awareness about the ACP to eligible households; and
   - Increase ACP enrollment as a result of ACP Outreach Grant Program funded activities.

4. What evaluation factors has the FCC prioritized for the application review process?
For FY 2023, the FCC has prioritized the following evaluation factors for the application review process:
   - The extent to which an applicant would target underserved low-income households or individuals that are not currently on a low-income broadband plan or that do not have broadband service.
   - The extent to which an applicant would target outreach in communities that have low ACP participation rates, to include those that plan to target especially hard to reach populations (including minorities, persons with disabilities, persons who live in rural or Tribal areas, and others who are or have been historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality).
   - In evaluating grant applications from state governmental entities or territorial governmental entities, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) may also consider prioritizing grants based on whether the state or territory entered into or has committed to enter into a Computer Matching Agreement (CMA) with the Universal Service Administrative Company.
(USAC) for purposes of verifying the eligibility of low-income consumers for the ACP. This does not apply to non-governmental entities.

In addition, the following are examples of evaluation factors that may be used for purposes of maximizing the impact and effectiveness of the outreach grant funds:

- Experience with, and past success in, conducting outreach regarding government programs and resources, particularly providing resources and directing services (such as ACP application assistance) and education to people of color, persons with disabilities, persons who live in rural or Tribal areas, and others who are or have been historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.
- Existing, trusted relationships with the communities that grant applicants expect to target (e.g., as “trusted messengers”), or the ability to readily establish those relationships, particularly relationships with people of color, persons with disabilities, persons who live in rural or Tribal areas, and others who are or have been historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.
- Familiarity with the ACP and experience with or knowledge of bridging digital disparities and connectivity issues.
- Experience with or capability of providing multilingual outreach, including American Sign Language.
- Whether an applicant proposes a cost-share or cost match. Note: This information will be used as a tie breaker during the funding determination process.

5. How much funding is available for the FY 2023 ACP Outreach Grant Program?
The FCC will make up to $70 million of competitive funding available under this FY 2023 ACP Outreach Grant Program NOFO. There is up to $60 million available to fund NCOP applications and a minimum of $10 million available to fund TCOP applications.

6. What is the minimum and maximum amount of funding an applicant can request?
The minimum (floor) amount an applicant may apply for is $50,000, and the maximum (ceiling) amount an applicant may apply for is $1,000,000. Applicants requesting near or at the recommended maximum funding amount of $1,000,000 will need to demonstrate an ACP outreach and/or application assistance strategy that is multi-state, national-level, and/or regional level, with the ability to pass-through to local-based eligible entities, as applicable.

7. Will there be cost sharing or matching requirements?
There will be no cost sharing or matching requirements for applicants to the FY 2023 ACP Outreach Grant Program. However, applicants that propose a cost match or cost share may have a priority consideration, in the event of a tie, when making funding determinations. Cost share or cost match may be cash or in-kind contribution. If an applicant elects cost sharing or matching, the applicant must comply with 2 CFR 200.306.

8. When are applications due for the FY 2023 ACP Outreach Grant Program?
Applicants will have 60 days to complete and submit their grant application from the time of NOFO release on November 10, 2022. Complete applications must be received electronically through
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is announcing funding opportunities for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach Grant Program. Eligible applicants must submit a complete application to the FCC for funding consideration before the application submission deadline, which consists of standard forms and program-specific form:

- Standard Forms and Information:
  - Form SF-424 – Application for Federal Assistance
  - Form SF-424A – Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs
  - Standard Form LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)
  - Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

- Program-Specific Form:
  - ACP Outreach Grant Program Application Template

To access application forms and instructions, go to [https://www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under Assistance Listing (CFDA) Number: 32.011 - Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program.

The FCC anticipates processing and announcing ACP Outreach Grant Program awards on or before March 10, 2023. Selected grantees can anticipate receiving a Notice of Award through the GrantSolutions system no later than March 31, 2023.

To ensure compliance with the applicable federal statutes and regulations as well as appropriately determine the impact of proposed projects against the ACP Outreach Grant Program’s goal, objectives, and priorities, submitted applications will undergo the following three step review process:

- **Eligibility** (Compliance) review to determine if the applicant is eligible and submitted a complete application package;
- **Merit** review to determine the quality of proposed projects against program objectives, activities, and costs/budget using pre-determined criteria and federal reviewer scores
- **Risk Review** to determine fiscal stability of an applicant using many factors including, the quality of the management systems, history of grant performance, and audit reports and findings.

For FY 2023, eligible entities may include the following diverse range of governmental and non-governmental organizations to serve as outreach partners to persons who live in low-income households:

- State governments (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico);
- U.S. Territory governments
- Local governments and subdivisions;
- Tribal governments and subdivisions

Visit [https://www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) no later than 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on January 9, 2023. Late applications will not be accepted.

9. **What types of applications will not be accepted?**
Applications or portions thereof submitted through postal mail, courier, email, facsimile, or other means will not be accepted.

10. **What are the application requirements for the FY 2023 ACP Outreach Grant Program?**
Eligible applicants must submit a complete application to the FCC for funding consideration before the application submission deadline, which consists of standard forms and program-specific form:

11. **Where can an applicant access application forms and instructions?**
To access application forms and instructions, go to [https://www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under Assistance Listing (CFDA) Number: 32.011 - Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program.

12. **When will funding determination and announcement be made?**
The FCC anticipates processing and announcing ACP Outreach Grant Program awards on or before March 10, 2023. Selected grantees can anticipate receiving a Notice of Award through the GrantSolutions system no later than March 31, 2023.

13. **How will grant applications be reviewed?**
To ensure compliance with the applicable federal statutes and regulations as well as appropriately determine the impact of proposed projects against the ACP Outreach Grant Program’s goal, objectives, and priorities, submitted applications will undergo the following three step review process:

14. **Who is eligible to apply for a NCOP or TCOP Outreach Grant Program award?**
For FY 2023, eligible entities may include the following diverse range of governmental and non-governmental organizations to serve as outreach partners to persons who live in low-income households:
• Public housing agencies;
• Tribal designated housing entities;
• Social service providers;
• Education organizations;
• Workforce development training organizations;
• Non-profit organizations;
• Community-based organizations;
• Community anchor institutions;
• Public service organizations; and
• Consortia of the entities listed above.

15. Who is ineligible to apply for a NCOP or TCOP Outreach Grant Program award?
Broadband providers and their subsidiaries, affiliates, representatives, contractors, and agents will not be eligible to participate in the ACP Outreach Grant Program or receive awards, either as grantees, pass-through entities, or subrecipients. Additional ineligible entities include broadband industry groups and trade associations that represent broadband providers; entities that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs or activities; and entities that are ineligible by statute (such as 501(c)(4) non-profit organizations that engage in lobbying activities or organizations that are indebted to the United States and have judgment liens filed against them).

For municipal broadband providers, the exclusion of broadband providers and their affiliates, subsidiaries, or representatives from eligibility does not extend to separate arms of the municipality that do not maintain, manage, or operate the municipal broadband network.

Refer to Section V – Federal Award Information, G. Ineligible Entities for additional information and definition of key terms in the NOFO.

16. What is the period of performance for the FY 2023 ACP Outreach Grant Program?
Eligible entities must expend awarded funding against their approved projects and supporting milestones within 24 months (2 years). The projected period of performance start date(s) is March 2023, and the projected period of performance end date is March 2025. Grantees should reference their Notice of Award for exact start and end dates for their period of performance.

17. Will extensions to a grantee’s period of performance be allowed?
Due to the competitive funding determination of the ACP Outreach Grant Program, only no-cost (i.e., extending project period without additional funding) period of performance extensions will be considered. No-cost extensions to the initial period of performance will only be considered through formal, written requests to the recipient’s FCC Grants Management Specialist and must contain specific justifications as to why an extension is required. Refer to the ACP Outreach Grant Program NOFO for more information.

18. What are the funding restrictions and prohibitions placed on ACP Outreach Grant Program?
The following are restrictions and prohibitions that apply to grant and sub-grant recipients:
• Service provider neutrality of grant-funded outreach activities
• Transfer of funds within ACP Outreach Grant sub-programs
• Prohibition of supplanting other outreach funding
• Prohibition of service provider in-kind contributions for funded outreach
• Prohibition of profit, and fees or charges to eligible households
• Prohibition of commissions or compensation linked to ACP applications or enrollment
• Prohibition of remote enrollment assistance
• Prohibition of lobbying

19. What are allowable costs?
Costs funded through the Outreach Grant Program must be necessary, reasonable, and allocable to the award.

A list of allowable cost categories is included in Section VII – Funding Restrictions, Prohibitions, and Allowable Costs (Table 4) in the NOFO. The list is not comprehensive but is meant to demonstrate types of outreach and ACP application assistance activities that are deemed effective in reaching ACP-eligible households.

20. What are unallowable costs?
Unallowable costs are those that are deemed not necessary, reasonable, nor allocable to the award based on the Goal and Objectives of the ACP Outreach Grant Program. Further, Federal Cost Principles prohibit certain activities when using grant funds because they are a form of federal financial assistance.

A list of unallowable cost categories is included in Section VII – Funding Restrictions, Prohibitions, and Allowable Costs (Table 5) of the NOFO. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive.

21. Are there reporting requirements post award for the ACP Outreach Grant Program?
Grant recipients must submit performance progress reports (PPR) and federal financial reports (FFR) electronically on a quarterly basis. Please refer to Section X. Post Award Reporting Requirements in the NOFO for specifics on PPRs and FFRs.

22. Why will the FCC monitor all grant awards both financially and programmatically?
The FCC will monitor recipients to ensure that administrative processes, policies and procedures, budgets, and other related award criteria are meeting federal government-wide regulations. Aside from reviewing quarterly financial and programmatic reports, the FCC may also conduct enhanced monitoring through desk reviews, onsite monitoring visits, or both. Enhanced monitoring will identify areas where the recipient may need technical assistance, corrective actions, or other support.

23. Is there an easy way to find all Internet Service Providers in an area?
The Companies Near Me Tool can be used to access a list of ACP provider(s) serving an area.

24. What resources will be available to grant recipients when conducting ACP outreach?
An ACP Consumer Outreach Toolkit is available with resources grant recipients can use and tailor to their communities and outreach activities. Additional ACP outreach resources will be published here at www.fcc.gov/acp-grants.