



January 23, 2024

TO: California Congressional Delegation

SUBJECT: Save the Affordable Connectivity Program and the 2.8 million California households relying on this vital program.

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

We write to urge you to approve additional funding for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The failure to extend this program will sever the connection to reliable broadband access for 2.8 million California households – nearly 22 percent of the households in our state.

As the Director of the California Department of Technology (CDT) and President of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), our organizations share responsibilities for implementing the state's Broadband For All initiative. This initiative leverages multiple programs from the historic bi-partisan Infrastructure, Investment and Job Act (IIJA) to provide essential broadband infrastructure and access to unserved and underserved California communities.

The ACP is critical for internet affordability in California. The ACP is needed to ensure equitable access to internet service, providing the means to drive down the cost of home internet service for low-income and vulnerable residents and residents on tribal lands.

To date:

- 2,834,728 households in California, 49 percent of the eligible households in our state, are enrolled in the program¹.
- Nearly 200 fixed and mobile Internet Service Providers are participating in the program in California.²

¹ [Affordable Connectivity Program enrollment tracker | Broadband for All \(ca.gov\)](#)

² <https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers>

- ACP outreach grants enable 15 California entities, including CDT, to provide outreach services to eligible residents.

Income-qualified residents, internet service providers, and FCC ACP outreach grantees will be negatively impacted by the winding down of the ACP.

The loss of the ACP would also reduce the efficacy of Congress' groundbreaking \$42 billion investment in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The ACP is necessary to maximize BEAD program dollars intended to build out our nation's broadband infrastructure and ensure that no community gets left behind.

As you work to finalize a government funding package, we strongly urge you to include funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program to sustain it through December of 2024. This funding will keep Americans connected as Congress continues to work to develop a permanent funding pathway for this critical broadband program.

Respectfully,



Liana Bailey-Crimmins,
State Chief Information
Officer and Director,
California Department of
Technology



Alice Busching Reynolds,
President
California Public Utilities Commission