



## Spotlight On: Affordable and Reliable Broadband

The primary mission of the New York State Department of Public Service is to ensure affordable, safe, secure, and reliable access to electric, gas, steam, telecommunications, and water services for New York State's residential and business consumers, while protecting the natural environment.

### The Importance of Affordable and Reliable Broadband

Access to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband service is critical to ensuring that New Yorkers can receive medical care, work remotely, continue their educations, and connect with family and friends. Conversely, New Yorkers without such capacity can be cut off from the economy, their schools, and other essential services. The following programs are important steps in New York's effort to address affordable broadband connectivity in every corner of the State.

#### ➤ Broadband Assessment Program and Interactive Map:

The Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act of 2021 directs the Public Service Commission (PSC) to study, on an annual basis, the availability, reliability, and cost of high-speed broadband service in the State.

In June 2023, PSC released the second iteration of the interactive statewide map with detailed local descriptions of New York's broadband infrastructure. Unlike previous broadband mapping efforts at federal and state levels, the PSC's map concentrates on address-level data. The map can compare, confirm, and contrast information and ultimately provide an accurate assessment of each community's connectivity needs by identifying whether a location is served, underserved, or unserved. The map can be found at <https://mapmybroadband.dps.ny.gov/>.

The updated map uses a variety of sources to obtain the necessary data to study the availability of high-speed broadband across the State. This data will continue to be updated annually to assist the public and private sectors in addressing broadband policy, spending, and planning efforts, and to better inform all New Yorkers of what and where high-speed broadband services are available.



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information  
regarding  
Broadband

## ➤ Federal Affordable Connectivity Program:

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps families and households struggling to afford internet services needed for work, school, healthcare and more.

- **The benefit provides:**

- A discount of up to \$30/month for internet service (or a discount of up to \$75/month for households on qualifying Tribal lands); and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or a tablet purchased through a participating provider.

**The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.**

- **Eligibility:** A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below.
  - Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (available from the US Department of Health and Human Services);
  - Participates in certain government assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing, SSI, WIC, Lifeline, Veteran’s Pension or Survivor’s Pension;
  - Participates in one of several Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TNAF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
  - Is approved to receive benefits under the free or reduced-price school lunch or breakfast programs, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision schools;
  - Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
  - Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider’s existing low-income program.
- **To enroll:** follow the two-step process described below.
  1. Go to <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/> to apply or print out a mail-in application.
  2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill. Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

**Eligible households must do both steps** – apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

For more information about the program, call 877-384-2575 or visit [fcc.gov/ACP](https://fcc.gov/ACP) for consumer FAQs and other program resources.



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ACP