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**CONSUMER ALERT: The White House Addresses Affordable Internet;**

**New Online Tools Available**

The White House announced on May 9, 2022 that it has obtained commitments from 20 internet providers who have agreed to take steps to participate in the nationwide effort to expand access to affordable high-speed internet.<sup>1</sup> Following the launch of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) in December 2021 and provides eligible consumers with a discount of up to \$30 dollars for their internet services (\$75 per month for qualifying Tribal Households), many citizens were still finding it difficult to afford high-speed internet. Understanding this, the Biden Administration took steps to secure corporate partnerships to increase speeds under their current plans or to lower the price of plans for ACP households.<sup>2</sup> Some providers have agreed to lower plans for ACP consumers to \$30 per month, which could result in free high-speed internet for qualifying households with the ACP discount. Large providers in Connecticut such as Altice, AT&T, Breezeline, Comcast, Cox, Frontier, and Verizon are among those listed as responding to the White House's request for greater steps in ensuring affordable, high-speed access for all households. Please see some of the plan commitments [here](#).<sup>3</sup>

The White House aptly recognized that it is not enough to just have an internet connection. Most activities conducted over the internet require high upload and download speeds. The Administration views high-speed internet as "download speeds of at least 100 Megabits per second."<sup>4</sup> This is greater than the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standard of 25 megabits per second download.<sup>5</sup>

To ensure the word spreads, federal agencies will coordinate to identify and reach out to those who may be eligible for ACP. Non-governmental organizations such as Goodwill, United Way, and Unidos US will also have their workers reach out to potentially eligible households.

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<sup>1</sup> [Fact Sheet: President Biden and Vice President Harris Reduce High-Speed Internet Costs for Millions of Americans](#)

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> [Benton Institute: Internet Service Providers Commit to Affordable Broadband](#)

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> [FCC 2015 Broadband Progress Report](#)

Coupled with this announcement, the White House launched [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov), to better assist those trying to sign up for ACP. The website allows consumers to check their eligibility under the ACP, check for providers in their area and then sign up for the benefit.

**To check your eligibility for ACP please go to [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) or <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.**

From: Consumer Counsel, Claire E. Coleman

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