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From: Consumer Counsel, Claire E. Coleman

Consumer & Community Alert: Affordable Connectivity Program Consumer Outreach Toolkit

The Connecticut Office of State Broadband within the Office of Consumer Counsel is alerting Connecticut community organizations and consumers to the release of a new federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Consumer Outreach Toolkit, as well as new discounts available for devices.

"Closing the digital divide is both a consumer rights and civil rights issue, as a disproportionate number of communities of color remain without quality, affordable internet connections," Consumer Counsel Claire Coleman remarked. "The Affordable Connectivity Program is a critical component to broadband access and adoption efforts, and I applaud the efforts of the White House and FCC for creating an 'all of government' approach to getting Connecticut residents connected as soon as possible."

The ACP, administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), provides eligible households up to \$30/month (or \$75/month on Tribal lands) off internet bills, as well as a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device.

This multimedia toolkit is designed to increase enrollment numbers and spread the word about the ACP. The materials are available in multiple languages, (Spanish, Arabic, Chinese-Traditional, Chinese-Simplified, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese) and includes information for households on Tribal Lands as well.

Please find the FCC ACP Toolkit at: ACP Consumer Outreach Toolkit

Additionally, in May, President Biden and Vice President Harris announced commitments from internet service providers across the country to offer high-speed plans that are fully covered by the ACP—meaning millions of working families can now get high-speed internet without paying anything. They simultaneously launched <u>GetInternet.gov</u>—a one-stop shop to check eligibility and sign up.

The Connecticut Office of State Broadband within the Office of Consumer Counsel encourages consumers to visit <u>GetInternet.gov</u> to sign up for benefits, and community partners to download the outreach materials and help with the enrollment drive to boost enrollment in the ACP.

ACP: Eligible consumers can receive a discount of up to \$30 for internet services (\$75 per month for qualifying Tribal Households). Over 1,300 internet service providers participate in the ACP with some providing high-speed plans (100 megabits per second download) for \$30 per month. Consumers can check their eligibility, plans offered, and sign up for the benefit at https://getinternet.gov/ or get more information by calling (877) 384-2575.

For more information, please contact us at OCC.Info@ct.gov