

# WEEKLY **BEAD** OFFICE HOURS

## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

*American Samoa*

office Hours #3

June 30, 2023

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[broadband.as.gov](https://broadband.as.gov)



## Questions of the Week!

- How are BEAD funds being allocated? Can an ASG department receive funding?
- Will we have an opportunity to review and provide input for the 5-Year Action Plan?
- What are requirements for business, non-profits, etc. to apply for BEAD funding?





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER 007 – 2023

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE TERRITORIAL BROADBAND COORDINATION,  
OPPORTUNITIES, REDEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OFFICE,  
ESTABLISHING THE BROADBAND STEERING COMMITTEE, AND  
REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER 006-2023

**Section 1: Authority**

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated, Section 4.0111 (b).

**Section 2: Preamble**

**WHEREAS**, access to broadband is essential to the prosperity and quality of life of everyone living in American Samoa;

**WHEREAS**, broadband is vital to commerce, the economic vitality of communities, and American Samoa's global competitiveness;

**WHEREAS**, President Biden announced the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program which enable States and Territories to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in furtherance of the Administration's "Internet for All" initiative;

**WHEREAS**, broadband is vital to the delivery of education, health care, transportation services, public safety, emergency response, and other critical services;

**WHEREAS**, broadband is vital to creating an inclusive infrastructure that addresses the needs of people with disabilities, the elderly, minors and the community as a whole;

# BCORD OFFICE

- Established by Governor Lemanu by Executive Order 007-2023 under the Department of Commerce to coordinate and support territory-wide efforts on broadband to increase the affordability, availability, adoption and effectiveness of broadband internet.
- Through partnerships and collaborations, the BORD Office encourages investment in opportunities for broadband programs and initiatives that focus on improving the quality of life for the people of American Samoa based on its territorial strategic goals and objectives for broadband development.

# Current Projects

BCORD supports territory-wide efforts on broadband to increase the affordability, availability, adoption and effectiveness of broadband internet. Through partnerships and collaborations, the BORD Office encourages investment in opportunities for broadband programs and initiatives that focus on improving the quality of life for the people of American Samoa.

**01** Internet for All (BEAD, Digital Equity, ACP)

**02** BroadbandiNEI ARPA

**03** Innovation & Technology Campus

**04** Research and Development

**05** Cybersecurity



# Today's office hours will focus on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) from FCC.

**The ACP is a \$14.2 billion program created by Congress in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program.**

**Eligible consumers receive up to \$30 monthly discount on internet service bill and one-time discount of up to \$100 on a laptop/ device purchased.**

*Source: FCC May 2023, slide adapted*

## Who Is Eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#), or if a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
  - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools.
  - SNAP
  - Medicaid
  - Federal Housing Assistance, including:
    - Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8 Vouchers)
    - Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)/Section 202/ Section 811
    - Public Housing
    - Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - WIC
  - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
  - or [Lifeline](#);

# How to enroll for ACP

## Two Steps to Enroll

1. Go to [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.
2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.



**Local Internet Service Providers: ASTCA, BLUESKY, VCX**

## Steps to Follow

- Prove your eligibility
- Re-certify each year
- Keep your internet service provider up-to-date

## ACP and BCORD

ACP is a non-cash benefit available to consumers as a discount to their internet service bills each month. The BCORD Office acts as an advocate of the program with a **goal to ensure consumers are aware of the benefit.**

### BCORD ACP Plans Moving Forward

- Boost Outreach & Marketing Activities locally
- **ACP Outreach Grant**



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## ACP Outreach Grant Program Overview:

- National Competitive Outreach Program (NCOP)
  - \$60m made available in first round of the \$14.2b in ACP program funding for NCOP
- \$10m made available in second round of funding for both NCOP and TCOP.
  - Round Two funding is specifically targeted at the states and territories that did not receive round one funding.
  - Maximum ceiling is \$400,000 for States & Territories





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## American Samoa's ACP Outreach Proposed Grant Overview:

- Providers are not eligible entities directly or as sub-awardees.
- The proposal:
  - An aggressive media outreach campaign inclusive of radio advertisements, tv advertisements, print media and social media.
  - All advertising will be multi-lingual to maximize exposure.
  - Events in partnership with providers and partner agencies
  - Multiple outreach activities for Manu'a - at least one per quarter.
  - Technical Assistance for Data Sharing agreements



# Thank you

Michael McDonald  
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[www.doc.as.gov / broadband.as.gov](http://www.doc.as.gov/broadband.as.gov)



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