NOVEMBER 22, 2022



VPS Memo

ACP Year-End Updates and Reminders

RECENT UPDATES AND REMINDERS FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP).

ACP Outreach Grant Program

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) transitioned to the ACP in January 2022. Since inception, the program has enrolled over 14.9 million households. Unfortunately, there is still a digital divide and gap between those who are eligible and those receiving the benefit. To ensure those eligible are made aware of the program, the FCC recently released the <u>Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program</u>. The grant program provides funding to increase awareness and participation in the program. Eligible entities are government entities, nonprofits, for-profit organizations, other small businesses, and tribal entities. Broadband service providers are not eligible for the program; however, Vantage Point Solutions encourages you to reach out to entities in your service area to ensure they are aware of the grant funding available. The maximum award amount is \$1,000,000 and the floor is \$50,000. The application deadline is January 9, 2023, with an anticipated award date of March 10, 2023.

Year End Reminders

Annual Certification Process (New! – December 31, 2022)

Annually, ACP service providers are required to confirm it has policies and procedures in place to comply with the ACP rules and procedures. For 2022, the certification is due **December 31, 2022**. The ACP 497 Officer must complete the certification within the USAC system. The certification can be accessed in the USAC systems under the Affordable Connectivity Claims System (ACCS).



USAC Systems Updates

USAC has updated the FCC Form 498 to also collect the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov. Currently, the field is required to be updated if a revision is made to the FCC Form 498. However, in 2023, the UEI will be required to be populated. Due to the length of time to receive a SAM.gov UEI or resolve errors when updating the UEI in the USAC portal, VPS recommends companies plan to update the UEI in the FCC Form 498 as soon as practical (shown below).

Note: There is a "Verify" button to select after populating the field. If the EIN matches in all three systems (SAM.gov, CORES, and USAC) the verification step will pass. After the information is verified, certify the FCC Form 498 revision.



Companies Near Me Tool

The USAC "Companies Near Me Tool" has been updated to separate search results by ACP or Lifeline and will also depict if a service provider has elected to provide \$0.00 ACP.

IMMEDIATE ACTION RECOMMENDED

VPS recommends completing the ACP certification as soon as possible and plan to complete the UEI updates no later than Q1 2023.

Here To Help

For additional information, including assistance walking through the USAC system certification and updates, please contact the Vantage Point Solutions Consulting Team:

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