



# Monroe County Legislature

**RACHEL BARNHART**

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To The Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, NY 14614

**Re: Memorializing the United States Congress to Extend Funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program**

Honorable Legislators:

We rely on broadband internet for work, education, healthcare, and social and civic engagement. High-speed internet access is a necessity in our daily lives, but it's one that many of our neighbors cannot afford at market rates.

Unfortunately, \$14.2 billion Congress authorized for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in 2021 has run out. Starting in June 2024, households could no longer receive \$30 a month toward internet service, as well as one-time funds to purchase devices.

The end of ACP has a significant impact on Monroe County households. Federal data shows in February, the last month the program accepted new applications, Monroe County had 73,237 households enrolled in ACP, an outlay of \$2,224,210. Since January 2022, Monroe County residents have claimed nearly \$50 million under ACP. While more than one-third of the enrollments are in the City of Rochester's high-poverty Zip codes, the ACP was also heavily utilized in suburban and rural towns.

The data shows the ACP played a huge role in bridging the digital divide, ensuring adults and children have access to broadband internet. These funds also supported internet providers, allowing them to make further infrastructure investments.

High-speed internet is indispensable. It is imperative that Congress find a solution to extend funding for this vital program.

Sincerely,

Rachel Barnhart – Legislator District 17