



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE



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RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP FOR BROADBAND DISCOUNTS

Santa Cruz County residents may be eligible for monthly broadband discounts and rebates on computers or tablets and are being encouraged to sign up by February 7.

Under the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, qualified households are eligible for \$30 monthly internet discounts and one-time \$100 rebates on computers or tablets. Indigenous community members may be eligible for enhanced benefits.

So far, 11,000 Santa Cruz County residents have signed up for the program. However, that figure represents just 28 percent of local eligible households.

The program is scheduled to sunset on February 7. However, a nationwide effort is underway to extend the program, which has helped expand broadband access to nearly 23 million households, making it one of the most successful federal efforts ever to close the digital divide. Visit <https://www.internetforallnow.org> to apply and for additional details.

Families of four or fewer qualify if their household income is less than \$60,000 or less. For each additional family members, add \$9,000 to determine eligibility limits.

Additional ways to qualify include having at least one household member enrolled in any of the following Federal Assistance Programs:

- Lifeline
- Free or Reduced School Lunch Programs
- CalFresh or SNAP
- Medi-Cal or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Pell Grant
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit

Households also qualify if at least one member is enrolled in any of the following assistance programs for indigenous communities: Tribal Programs for Residents on Qualifying Tribal Lands, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Tribal Head Start (must meet income standards).