Hi! I’m Belle! In this course, you will learn about the Affordable Connectivity Program, also known as the ACP, which helps families and households with affordable internet service.

In this course, we’ll discuss the information you need to apply for the program, how to apply for the program, and how to use the benefit.
In the first lesson, we'll discuss the benefits of internet access in your home, who is eligible to apply for the program, and your rights if you participate in the ACP.

So what is the Affordable Connectivity Program? The ACP is a program of the United States Federal Communications Commission, also referred to as the FCC, to help qualifying households receive a discount on internet service with participating providers.
The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to $30/month to use for internet service
- Up to $75/month to internet service for households on qualifying Tribal lands

The ACP provides a benefit of up to $30 per month for internet service or up to $75 per month for internet service for households on qualifying Tribal lands. In some cases, the benefit may fully cover the cost of your internet service. The benefit is available to eligible new customers, current customers, or households who have had internet service in the past.
In addition to providing a monthly discount for internet service, the ACP also provides a one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider. To use the benefit, your household must contribute between $10 and $50 toward the purchase price of the device.

The ACP is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.
A question you may be asking is why would I want internet access? There are many benefits to having internet access. When it is available in the home, you have access to the internet whenever you need it. Other advantages include:

You can access educational resources, attend classes online to earn a college degree, build new skills for work, or learn a new hobby.
You can access educational tools to assist with students' homework.

You can access health care resources and attend some doctor's appointments virtually.
You can access your bank account, pay bills online, and sign up for other essential services.

You can apply for new jobs or work some jobs remotely.
You can watch or listen to online entertainment.

You can stay up to date with the news.
And you can stay connected with family and friends. As you can see, having internet service in your home has many benefits and can help you connect and engage with greater possibility.

Now that we’ve talked about the benefits of home internet access, you may be wondering: Am I eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program?
Your household is eligible for the ACP if you or someone in your household participates in one of the following programs, including:

- the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP;
- the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision schools;
- Medicaid;
- the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC;
- Supplemental Security Income, also referred to as SSI;
Federal Public Housing Assistance, including the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Project-Based Rental Assistance, Public Housing, and Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians; the Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit; or received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year.
In addition to participation in the programs we just reviewed, you may also be eligible because your household income is 200% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

For instance, if you live in a household of 3 in the contiguous United States and you make less than $46,060 annually, you would qualify.

A household of 3 in Hawaii making less than $52,980 would qualify,
and a household of 3 in Alaska would qualify if they make less than $57,580.

If you would like more information on the Federal Poverty Guidelines, visit the Additional Resources in this course and click on “Do I Qualify.”
If you live on qualifying Tribal lands, you are eligible for the Tribal ACP benefit if your household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if you or someone in your household participates in:

- any of the federal programs previously mentioned, or
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance,
- Head Start households meeting the income qualifying standard,
- Tribally-Administered Assistance for Needy Families also known as TANF, or
- the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.
Any member of your household can make your household eligible if they participate in one of the programs mentioned. For example, if your child or dependent participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program, your household is eligible for the ACP benefit.

Finally, if you currently receive a Lifeline benefit, you automatically qualify for the ACP, and you can receive both the Lifeline and ACP benefits at the same time.
Let’s take a look at some examples of 5 families that are eligible for the ACP.

The Suarez Family is eligible to apply because they receive SNAP benefits.

Damien is a college student who received a Federal Pell Grant this year, so the Melaku Family is eligible.

The Benally Family lives on qualifying Tribal lands and participates in the Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance program so they are eligible.

The Olsen Family is eligible because their children receive the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program.

George Williams is a Veteran and receives a Veterans Pension, so he is eligible.

Please note that even if you meet the eligibility criteria, you will still need to apply and receive approval for the program in order to receive the ACP benefit.
If you have questions about your eligibility, including whether you meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines, visit the webpage How Do I Qualify? for more information. There is a link to this resource in the Additional Resources section below this lesson.
The ACP program includes protections for you to make it easier to apply for internet service for your home. Those protections include:

- You can choose the service plan that best meets your needs, including a plan you may already have;
- You can access internet services regardless of your credit status;
- Companies can’t exclude you from enrolling in the program if you have past-due balances or prior debt;
- You can’t be forced into a more expensive or lower quality plan in order to receive the benefit; and
- You can switch internet companies or internet service offerings.
If you are not eligible for the ACP, you may have other options.

For example, you can search the website EveryoneOn.org to see if there are low-cost internet service options in your community by typing in your zip code and seeing what is available in your area. Please note this tool may not include every company that provides low-cost options in your community.
You can also check with your local internet service provider to see if they have low-cost options available, or contact your local library or community organizations to see if they can connect you with other low-cost internet options in your community.

In this lesson, we learned about the Affordable Connectivity Program, including eligibility and the protections associated with the program. In the next lesson, we will discuss the ACP guidelines.