

Money-saving tips: Low-cost to free high-speed internet for qualifying households

Mayra Franco

FRESNO, Calif. — As schools open up, school districts and county offices of education throughout California we're invited to participate in the 'Get Connected! Initiative' on Saturday.

Enrollment events took place throughout the state to help more households start

Some families may not even have to pay a dime.

That's all thanks to the Affordable Connectivity Program, funded by the federal government that's offering low-cost or even free internet to qualifying families.

“There is no end date right now until the federal funds are exhausted and so, we want to invite everybody to take advantage of that,” said Interim Executive Director Eduardo González, with the Fresno State Office of Community and Economic Development.

Fresno State Connect hosted one event at the Central Valley Resource Center in Parlier to help Fresno residents take advantage of the opportunity.



Fresno State Connect hosted one event at the Central Valley Resource Center in Parlier to help Fresno residents take advantage of the program that provides low-cost or free internet. (KMPH: Michael Tellez)

"Allows them to reduce their energy bill by \$30.00. So, if someone qualifies for a \$30.00 a month internet service minus a \$30 reduction that that would allow them to have free Internet at home," González said.

There are a few different ways to find out if you qualify for the program.

Your household must make \$53,000 or less if you're a family of four.

Another way is if someone in your household participates in one of the programs below:



A household member is enrolled in at least ONE (1) of the following **Federal Assistance Programs**:

- Lifeline
- Free or Reduced School Lunch Program, CEP Schools
- 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



A household member is enrolled in at least ONE (1) of the following **Support Services 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 relevant income qualifying standard)

“A lot of our rural communities are low-income communities,” Gonzales said.

In Fresno County, more than half who qualify could be saving money every single month and are currently not enrolled.

The Universal Service Administrative Company tracker states there is a total of 307,908 households in Fresno County, more than 176,750 homes are eligible for the discount as of July 2022. A total of 60,232 households have taken advantage of the program.

In the City of Fresno, it tracks the data by zip code, the data shows that number of eligible households surpasses the number currently enrolled.

City	Zip	Total Households	Eligible Households	Eligible Households Percent	Enrolled Households	Enrolled Households Percent
Fresno	93722	26,138	26,957	63%	4,913	45%
Fresno	93727	25,323	26,296	61%	4,781	46%
Fresno	93710	18,349	3,209	18%	540	25%
Fresno	93711	16,053	3,829	24%	531	24%
Fresno	93716	24,281	4,155	57%	4,283	52%
Fresno	93795	13,233	4,948	53%	3,090	57%
Fresno	93782	11,889	4,388	74%	2,886	66%
Fresno	93718	11,276	4,987	64%	1,817	36%
Fresno	93784	11,254	4,111	36%	1,856	42%
Fresno	93796	11,129	7,676	69%	4,379	57%
Fresno	93793	10,473	6,551	63%	3,715	57%
Fresno	93725	6,867	3,636	53%	1,725	47%
Fresno	93728	6,124	1,788	41%	2,142	66%
Fresno	93719	4,739	381	8%	187	26%
Fresno	93781	4,489	2,912	65%	2,088	71%
Fresno	93723	4,188	1,881	45%	385	18%
Fresno	93721	2,285	1,283	56%	754	59%

Fresno Zip Codes

If you have internet access and would like to apply online, [click here](#).

If not, you can contact Fresno State Connect at 855-456-9995.

Fresno State Connect says it's the first outreach event they had have and are hopeful to bring more to inform families who can't afford internet at home.

“It's very important for everybody regardless of whether you're doing online education, workforce, telehealth, telemedicine, online banking....So, Internet service right now is very important for the household, this program helps alleviate those costs,” González says, “We want to Invite everybody and continue to, you know, support the communities by letting them know that there is this opportunity for them to take advantage of it and let us help.”

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Fresno	93727	25,323	10,296	41%	4,781	46%
Fresno	93720	18,340	3,280	18%	940	29%
Fresno	93711	16,053	3,820	24%	931	24%
Fresno	93726	14,201	8,155	57%	4,263	52%
Fresno	93705	13,213	6,948	53%	3,990	57%
Fresno	93702	11,585	8,588	74%	4,804	56%
Fresno	93710	11,276	4,987	44%	1,817	36%
Fresno	93704	11,214	4,383	39%	1,856	42%
Fresno	93706	11,119	7,676	69%	4,379	57%
Fresno	93703	10,473	6,551	63%	3,715	57%
Fresno	93725	6,867	3,636	53%	1,725	47%
Fresno	93728	6,124	3,708	61%	2,142	58%
Fresno	93730	4,735	381	8%	107	28%
Fresno	93701	3,605	2,942	82%	2,093	71%
Fresno	93723	3,360	1,003	30%	334	33%
Fresno	93721	2,205	1,283	58%	754	59%

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<https://kmph.com/news/local/money-saving-tips-low-cost-to-free-high-speed-internet-for-qualifying-households>