SECTION 05

FCC Under Fire

05

Four federal connectivity programs add up to $57.8 billion: the expired $14.2 billion ACP, the $42.45 billion BEAD program, $943 million in Lifeline disbursements in 2024 and the $200 million E-Rate cybersecurity pilot.

$57.8B

Across four programs.

Dr. Troy Nash Founder and CEO, AGI Affinity

SECTION 05 / FCC UNDER FIRE

Universal service, program by program.

The four federal connectivity programs and where each one stands.

THE PROGRAMS

$14.2B	ACP, expired
$42.45B	BEAD
$943M	Lifeline, disbursed in 2024
$200M	E-Rate cybersecurity pilot

WHAT A HOUSEHOLD ACTUALLY GETS

up to $9.25	per month for broadband through Lifeline
up to $34.25	per month on Tribal lands
$923.9M	Lifeline disbursed in 2025, down from 2024

Where the Lifeline figures come from. They are not estimates. They are the sum of the disbursement amount field in USAC's own public Lifeline Disbursements dataset: $942,970,058 for disbursement year 2024 and $923,872,899 for 2025. Anyone can reproduce them.

FCC News Release, January 14, 2022 (ACP). NTIA BroadbandUSA, BEAD program overview. FCC Public Notice DA 24-489, May 23, 2024 (Lifeline; 47 CFR 54.403). FCC News Release, June 6, 2024 (cybersecurity pilot). USAC Open Data, Lifeline Disbursements dataset, disbursement years 2024 and 2025. FCC, 2026 Section 706 Report, FCC 26-55, para. 127, August 14, 2026 (cybersecurity pilot status).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Restoring the FCC's universal service mission

01 **Demand congressional oversight** of program decisions, requiring the Commission to justify eliminations against its statutory mandate.

02 **Reaffirm universal service in statute**, naming broadband explicitly as an essential service under the Telecommunications Act framework.

03 **Protect Lifeline.** It is the federal broadband discount for low income households, and its disbursements fell from $943 million in 2024 to $924 million in 2025.

04 **Sustain the E-Rate cybersecurity pilot**, so schools and libraries can defend the networks the same programs paid to build.

05 **Require impact assessments before any program change**, measuring effects on connectivity, affordability and equity.

How AGI Affinity can help

We help stakeholders read a shifting federal landscape through policy analysis, impact modeling and advocacy support. The TSDOH Assessment Matrix quantifies what a program change does at community level, which turns an argument into evidence.

We check every figure in this brief against its source. If you find an error, email info@agiaffinity.com and we will correct it within 5 to 7 business days. Policy: agiaffinity.com/sourcing-and-corrections

FCC News Release, January 14, 2022 (ACP). NTIA BroadbandUSA, BEAD program overview. FCC Public Notice DA 24-489, May 23, 2024 (Lifeline; 47 CFR 54.403). FCC News Release, June 6, 2024 (cybersecurity pilot). USAC Open Data, Lifeline Disbursements dataset, disbursement years 2024 and 2025. FCC, 2026 Section 706 Report, FCC 26-55, para. 127, August 14, 2026 (cybersecurity pilot status).