

FCC Under Fire

More than \$57 billion in connectivity programs face uncertainty as the FCC shifts toward deregulation and away from universal service obligations.

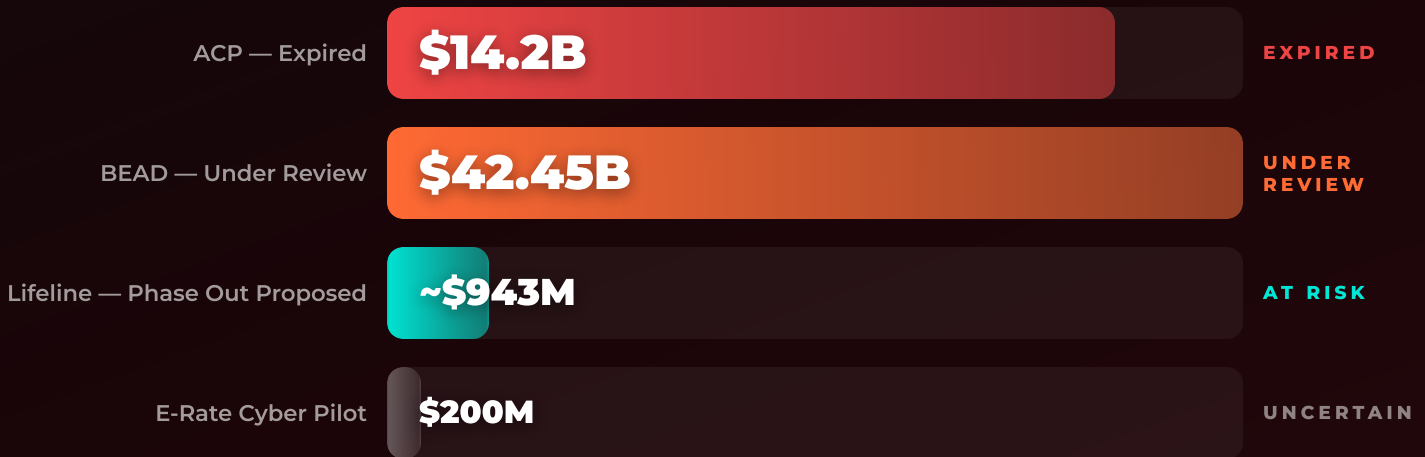
Dr. Troy Nash & Arielle Nash, Co Founders

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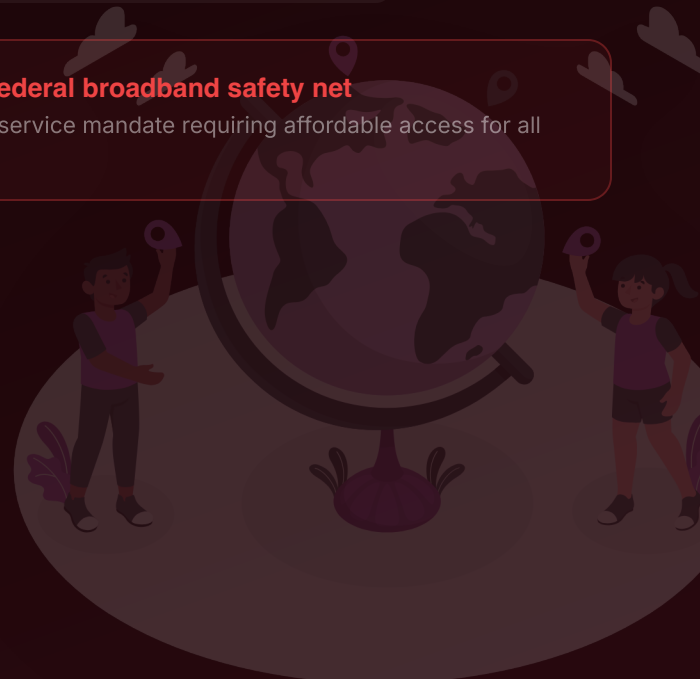
\$57+ Billion at Risk. Universal Service Under Threat.

Federal connectivity programs eliminated, paused, or under review



Lifeline provides just \$9.25/month — the last federal broadband safety net

These actions contradict the Telecommunications Act of 1996 universal service mandate requiring affordable access for all Americans



Restoring the FCC's Universal Service Mission

- **Demand congressional oversight** of FCC program decisions, requiring the Commission to justify program eliminations and demonstrate compliance with statutory mandates.
- **Reaffirm the universal service mandate** through updated legislation that explicitly includes broadband as an essential service under the Telecommunications Act framework.
- **Protect the Lifeline program** from phase out by demonstrating its critical role as the last federal broadband subsidy for low income Americans, especially seniors and veterans.
- **Resume the E-Rate cybersecurity pilot** to protect schools and libraries from increasing cyber threats while maintaining affordable broadband access for educational institutions.
- **Require FCC impact assessments** before any program modification or termination, measuring effects on connectivity rates, affordability, and equity outcomes.

How AGI Affinity Can Help

AGI Affinity helps stakeholders navigate the shifting federal regulatory landscape through policy analysis, impact modeling, and advocacy support. Our **TSDOH Assessment Matrix** quantifies the community level effects of program changes, providing evidence based arguments for maintaining critical connectivity investments.

SOURCES

FCC Universal Service Monitoring Reports | USAC Annual Reports (2024) | Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. Section 254 | Congressional Research Service, "FCC Program Overview" | Benton Institute for Broadband & Society | E-Rate Central Program Analysis