

Financial Resources Available to Graduate Students (Income-Based Eligibility)

Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a U.S. government program run by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices like a laptop or tablet. You are likely eligible if your household's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if you or someone you live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch. A W-2 from the most recent tax year (or another approved document) may be used as proof of income.

If your household is eligible, you could receive:

- Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service
- Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)
- A low cost service plan that may be fully covered through the ACP*

Income limits:

- \$27,180 for 1-person household
- \$36,620 for 2-person household
- \$46,060 for 3-person household
- \$55,500 for 4-person household

Learn more at: www.affordableconnectivity.gov

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps Pennsylvanians buy food. People in eligible low-income households can obtain more nutritious diets with SNAP increasing their food purchasing power at grocery stores and supermarkets. Those who are eligible receive an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) ACCESS Card to make food purchases. *Note: Graduate stipend needs to be reported, but it is NOT designated as counted income (program has expanded to cover many grad students).*

Learn more at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/SNAP.aspx>

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)*

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. Remember: This is a grant and does not have to be repaid. Income limit is \$20,385. *Note: Graduate stipend needs to be reported and DOES count as income for LIHEAP.*

Learn more at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>

*Both SNAP and LIHEAP are applied for by registering and completing the application through PA COMPASS: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.web/Registration/MCARegistration>

Centre County Assistance Office – for questions pertaining to COMPASS application, case management

Address: 2580 Park Center Boulevard, State College, PA 16801-3005

Office Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone: 1-800-355-6024 (toll free) or 814-863-6571