



MV Digital Equity Team Meeting

October 5, 2023

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Agenda

- ❖ Affordable Internet Program Update
- ❖ Inventory of Tech Training and Support Offerings for Older Adults



Draft 10/4/23



Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard Affordable Internet Program

What is it?

A program to provide affordable internet to qualifying islanders 60 years and older.

2-Step Process

1. Apply for Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a Federal Government benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, recreation, healthcare and more. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on Tribal lands.
2. Contact Xfinity at 1-855-846-8376 to sign up for Internet Service and/or apply the ACP benefit to your bill.



Who is Eligible?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria listed here: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is this easy?** Sometimes. It depends on a number of factors including whether you already have Xfinity Internet Service and easy access to income tax return.
- **How long does it take?** Several weeks, but it's worth it for up to \$360 savings/year.
- **Do I have to install hardware myself?** If you don't have Xfinity Internet Service, hardware will be sent to your home, and then you can call Xfinity for installation assistance.

Where do I start?

Request an appointment to apply for ACP credit through your local Council on Aging

- Tisbury COA: 508-696-4205
- Oak Bluffs COA: 508-693-4509 x3
- Up-Island COA: 508-693-2896
- Edgartown COA: 508-627-4386

Contact Lynn Marquedant at LynnMarquedant@hamv.org or 508-341-5631 for more information



Libraries or
COAs?

Affordable Connectivity Program Pilot Results

- 5 people successfully qualified for ACP and now receive affordable Internet thru Xfinity in their Island Elderly Housing (IEH) Apartments
- IEH, Xfinity, and HAMV representatives will meet to discuss next steps for IEH residents

Inventory of Digital Tech Offerings for Older Adults – to include on Call The Tech Pro Rack Card

- Libraries
- COAs
- YMCA
- What else?
- Please send a summary of your Tech programs/links/info to LynnMarquedant@hamv.org

HAMV is Turning **10** years old - fyi

- **10** years of educating, advocating, and community building to create an aging-friendly island.
- October **10**th – planting **10** trees in MV Forest at **10**AM
- How many years has HAMV been serving Older Adults on MV? **10**
- November 14th – hosting a Community Mobilization Summit at The Grange from 12pm – 6:30pm
- <https://www.hamv.org/10-year-celebration>