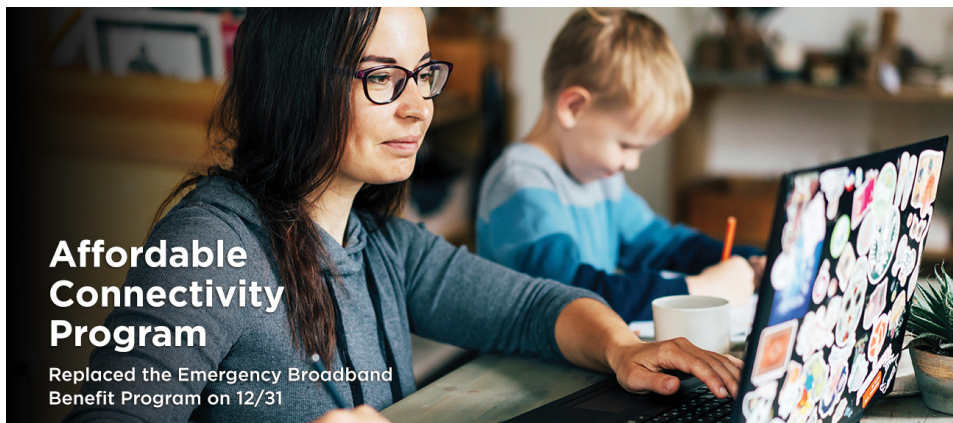


Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op
July 2023



Affordable Connectivity Program

Replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on 12/31

What is the Affordable Connectivity Program?

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB Program) to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices.

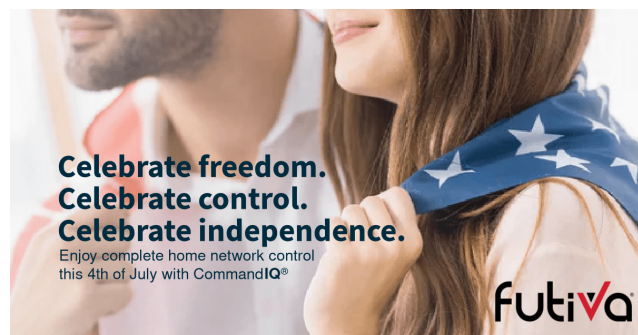
If your household is eligible, you can receive:

- Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service.

Step 1: Visit: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify/> to find out if you qualify.

Step 2: Apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program. For information on the ways to apply, visit <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply/>. You can apply online or print an application to mail.

Step 3: Once you have applied, notify us at 618-736-2211 to let us know you qualify. Once confirmed, we will apply the benefit to your bill monthly.



**Celebrate freedom.
Celebrate control.
Celebrate independence.**

Enjoy complete home network control
this 4th of July with CommandIQ®

futiva

Pay your bill online:

<https://hcc.smarthub.coop>

Pay your bill by phone:

1-855-386-9912

Calendar of Events:

July 1 - 4th Annual Dahlgren Freedom Festival, Music starts at 4:30 - 9 pm
Fireworks approx 9 pm

July 4 - Independence Day
Office CLOSED



1. Slip on a shirt - protect your skin with clothing.
2. Apply sunscreen - sunscreen is a "filter" that blocks out some UV Rays.
3. Put on a hat - protects the areas exposed to intense sun.
4. Use sunglasses - protect the eyes and skin around them.

Kevin Pyle
Executive Vice President &
General Manager

Board of Directors:

647 Exchange
Steven Douglass

648 Exchange
Alan Monroe, Secretary

728 Exchange
Chris Sink, President

736 Exchange
Lemuel Gage, Vice-President

756 Exchange
Rob Kiefer, Treasurer

757 Exchange
Justin Woodrow

773 Exchange
Robert Abbott

The Federal Universal Service Charge rate is increasing on July 1, 2023 from 29% to 29.2%. Single Line Residential and Single Line Business plans may see an increase of \$.01 or 1 cent. Multi-Line Business accounts will not experience an increase.

P.O. Box 40 • Dahlgren, IL 62828
www.hamiltoncom.net
support1@hamiltoncom.net

H Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op

618-736-2211
Fax: 618-736-2616
Mon - Fri / 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.



Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op
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The New 730 Area Code is Coming to Southern Illinois

The Illinois Commerce Commission has announced a new area code is coming to southern Illinois. The new 730 area code will “overlay” the existing 618 area code to address the depletion of prefixes available for assignment within the region. The first prefix in the new area code will not be introduced until after July 7, 2023. The 618 area code covers all or parts of 37 counties in Illinois. The 618 area code is one of the original, eighty-six area codes in the United States, assigned by Bell Laboratories in 1947. It has not undergone any substantive changes to its boundaries since then.

While 730 telephone numbers will begin to appear in the second half of 2023, there will continue to be an ongoing supply of available 618 telephone numbers in most areas. Here at Hamilton County Telephone Co-op, we still have plenty of 618 numbers available for customers.

Starting on July 7, 2023, customers in the 618 area code overlay region may be assigned a number in the new 730 area code when they request NEW service or an additional line. The 730 area code will co-exist everywhere in this region with the 618 area code. Customers receiving the 730 area code will be required to dial 10 digits (the area code and phone number) for all local calls, just as customers with telephone numbers from the 618 area code do today.

Telephone customers should know the following key facts about the 618/730 area code overlay: 1) Telephone numbers, including current area code, will not change. 2) The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay. What is a local call now will remain a local call. 3) Customers in the overlay region will continue to dial 10 digits for local calls within and between the overlay area codes, and 1+10 digits for long distance calls. 4) Customers can still dial just three digits to reach 911 and 988, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 if those are currently available in their community.

Customers should continue to identify their telephone number as a 10-digit number (3-digit area code + 7-digit telephone number), and include the area code when giving the number to friends, family, business associates and customers, etc.

Customers should ensure that all services, automatic dialing equipment, or other types of equipment recognize the new 730 area code as a valid area code and should continue to store or program telephone numbers as 10-digit numbers. Customers should also ensure their websites, personal and business stationery and printed checks, advertising materials, contact information, and personal or pet ID tags include the area code.

For more information, please visit the Illinois Commerce Commission website at <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/programs/Area-Codes>.

Win \$15 Off Your Bill

Complete the following questionnaire, cut out this section and mail the completed form by July 10, 2023. Your name will be placed in a drawing for \$15 off your telephone bill with HCTC. There will be three winners in July.

1. What day will our office be closed? _____
2. What program did the Affordable Connectivity Program replace? _____
3. What will be the new area code also available to our 618 region? _____
4. What is our General Manager's name? _____

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to June's Winners: Larry & Susie Rich and James Williams.

**Check out our website at www.hamiltoncom.net
for more information about the Co-op.**