

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2022

FACT SHEET:

President Biden and Vice President Harris Reduce High-Speed Internet Costs for Millions of Americans

Biden-Harris Administration Secures Commitments from 20 Internet Providers to Cut Prices and Increase Speeds

High-speed internet service is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity. But too many families go without high-speed internet because of the cost or have to cut back on other essentials to make their monthly internet service payments. Lowering prices—including the cost of high-speed internet service—is President Biden's top priority. Today, President Biden and Vice President Harris are announcing that they have secured private sector commitments that will lower high-speed internet costs for millions of American families.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the President and Vice President worked with Democrats and Republicans to create the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which allows tens of millions of American households to reduce their internet service costs by up to \$30/month (or \$75/month on Tribal lands). To ensure the most efficient use of those public dollars and to deliver maximum cost savings to families, the Biden-Harris Administration has secured commitments from 20 leading internet providers—covering more than 80% of the U.S. population across urban, suburban, and rural areas—to either

increase speeds or cut prices, making sure they all offer ACP-eligible households high-speed, high-quality internet plans for no more than \$30/month.

From large providers like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon serving dozens of states, to smaller providers serving rural areas like Jackson Energy Authority in Tennessee and Comporium in North Carolina, the commitments will allow tens of millions of ACP-eligible households to receive high-speed internet at no cost.

The Biden-Harris Administration is also launching a comprehensive effort to make sure as many ACP-eligible households as possible take advantage of this new program by:

- <u>Launching GetInternet.gov</u>: GetInternet.gov is a simple, easy-to-use website with details on how Americans can sign up for ACP and find participating internet providers in their area.
- Reaching out to eligible households through federal agencies:

 Households qualify for ACP based on their income or through their participation in one of several other federal programs, like Pell Grants, Medicaid, or Supplemental Security Income. Agencies that manage these programs will be coordinating an effort to reach out to households that qualify for ACP through programs they help administer. For example, the Social Security Administration will email all 1.6 million Supplemental Security Income recipients who have a "My Social Security" account, letting them know that they are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- Partnering with states and cities: The Administration is partnering with states
 and cities to spread the word as well. For example, Michigan, Massachusetts,
 Philadelphia, Mesa, Arizona, and New York City will text millions of eligible
 households.
- Collaborating with public interest organizations: Public interest organizations, including the United Way, Goodwill, Catholic Charities USA, and UnidosUS, will train their national networks to conduct direct enrollment and outreach. And Propel, a mission-driven financial technology company, will provide information via the Providers app to connect more than 5 million low-income families with the program.

Today's announcement is just one part of the President's strategy for lowering the cost of high-speed internet for all Americans. New <u>grant programs providing</u> tens of billions of dollars for broadband infrastructure construction will require providers to offer affordable internet options. New rules will soon require providers to display a "<u>Broadband Nutrition Label</u>" that will make it easier to comparison shop for the best deal on internet. The FCC has adopted rules to ban sweetheart deals between internet providers and landlords that

restrict the internet options available to millions of Americans who live <u>in apartment buildings</u>. And the President's <u>competition agenda</u> is focused on providing Americans with more good options for internet service where they live—driving down prices and increasing the quality of service.

THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP)

President Biden and Vice President Harris worked with Democrats and Republicans to create the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)—the largest high-speed internet affordability program in our nation's history. Experts estimate that <u>48 million households—or nearly 40% of households in the country—qualify for the ACP either because their income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, or because a member of the household meets one of the other criteria below:</u>

- Participates in one of the following programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - o Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - o Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast
 Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community
 Eligibility Provision schools
 - o Federal Pell Grant (received in the current award year)
 - o Lifeline
 - Certain Tribal assistance programs, including Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard), Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing lowincome internet program.

Under the terms of the ACP, an eligible household that signs up for the program will receive a discount of up to \$30/month on any internet service plan a participating provider offers. Households on Tribal Lands are eligible for a discount of up to \$75/month. As of now, more than 1,300 internet service providers participate in the program, and more than 11.5 million households have signed up to receive the ACP benefit.

NEW PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITMENTS

To make the most of this program, the Biden-Harris Administration asked participating

internet service providers to either reduce prices and or raise speeds to offer ACP-eligible households a high-speed internet plan for no more than \$30/month. For these purposes, the Administration views a sufficiently high-speed plan as one that offers download speeds of at least 100 Megabits per second everywhere that the provider's infrastructure is capable of it. That's fast enough for a typical family of four to work from home, do schoolwork, browse the web, and stream high-definition shows and movies. In addition, the Administration asked providers to offer such plans with no fees and no data caps.

For example, as part of this initiative, Verizon lowered the price for its Fios service from \$39.99/month to \$30/month for a plan that delivers download and upload speeds of at least 200 Megabits per second, and Spectrum doubled the speed of the \$30/month plan it makes available to ACP participants from 50 to 100 Megabits per second (download).

Each of the following companies committed to offer all ACP-eligible families at least one high-speed plan for \$30/month or less, with no additional fees and no data caps.

- <u>Allo Communications</u>
- AltaFiber (and Hawaiian Telecom)
- Altice USA (Optimum and Suddenlink)
- Astound
- AT&T
- Breezeline
- Comcast
- <u>Comporium</u>
- Frontier
- IdeaTek
- Cox Communications
- Jackson Energy Authority
- MediaCom
- MLGC
- Spectrum (Charter Communications
- Starry
- Verizon (Fios only)
- Vermont Telephone Company
- Vexus Fiber
- Wow! Internet, Cable, and TV

These companies serve urban, suburban, and rural communities across the country. Collectively, they offer high-speed internet services in areas in which over 80% of the U.S. population lives, including nearly 50% of the rural population. The Biden-Harris Administration is grateful for the efforts of these companies, and encourages additional internet service providers to join this effort to close the digital divide by offering high-speed, low-cost plans.

GET INTERNET

Learn how President Biden is reducing the cost of high-speed internet and find out if you qualify to sign up.

s part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, President Biden and Vice President
Harris worked with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents to create the
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides eligible households \$30 per
month off their internet bills. To deliver maximum cost savings to families, the Biden-Harris
Administration has secured commitments from 20 leading internet providers to offer ACPeligible households a high-speed internet plan for no more than \$30 per month. Eligible
families who pair their ACP benefit with one of these plans can receive high-speed internet at
no cost.

Find Out If You Qualify

There are three different ways to qualify for the ACP benefit. You are eligible if you meet any one of the three qualifications below:

• Your income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (see chart below)

Household Size	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Territories	Alaska	Hawaii
	\$27,180	\$33,980	\$31,260
2	\$36,620	\$45,780	\$42,120
3	\$46,060	\$57,580	\$52,980
4	\$55,500	\$69,380	\$63,840
5	\$64,940	\$81,180	\$74,700
6	\$74,380	\$92,980	\$85,560
7	\$83,820	\$104,780	\$96,420
8	\$93,260	\$116,580	\$107,280
For each additional person, add:	\$9,440	\$11,800	\$10,860

- You or someone in your household participates in one of these other programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools
 - Federal Pell Grant (received in the current award year)
 - Lifeline
 - Certain Tribal assistance programs, including Bureau of Indian Affairs General
 Assistance, Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard), Tribal
 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF), and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- You meet the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

How To Sign Up for the Affordable Connectivity Program

Step 1: Claim Your Affordable Connectivity Program Benefit.

Affordable Connectivity Program	
Your household may be eligible to receive a monthly discount on a new or existing internet service plan with the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).	
There are several ways to qualify for the ACP: through your participation in other government programs or based on your annual household income.	
How would you like to qualify?	
<u>Learn more about ACP.</u>	Apply Now

- You can send in an application by mail:
 - English Application // English Application Instructions
 - Spanish Application // Spanish Application Instructions
- You can sign up through your existing internet service provider if it participates in the program. Participating companies may ask you to apply through their company's own application process.

Step 2: Contact a participating internet service provider to choose an internet plan.

- Once your application is approved, contact a participating internet service provider to choose a plan and apply your benefit to that plan.
- More information on how to apply can be found at https://acpbenefit.org/how-to-apply/ or by calling (877) 384-2575.

Participating Service Providers

These internet service providers offer a high-speed internet plan for \$30 per month or less. If you apply your ACP benefit to one of these plans, you will have no out-of-pocket cost for internet.

- Allo Communications
- AltaFiber (and Hawaiian Telecom)
- Altice (Optimum and Suddenlink)
- Astound
- AT&T
- Breezeline
- Comcast
- Comporium
- Cox Communications
- Frontier
- IdeaTek
- Jackson Energy Authority
- Mediacom
- MLGC

- Spectrum (Charter Communications)
- Starry
- Verizon (Fios only)
- Vermont Telephone Company
- Vexus Fiber
- Wow! Internet, Cable and TV

You can also choose to apply your ACP benefit to a different provider. There are over 1,300 providers that accept the ACP benefit. To find one near you, visit https://acpbenefit.org/companies-near-me/.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What if I also need help getting a tablet or computer?

How much is my Affordable Connectivity Program benefit?

Are these plans fast?





About the ACP

The ACP
is a Federal
Communications
Commission
(FCC) program that
provides a monthly
internet service
discount and a onetime connected
device benefit from
participating
internet companies
for qualifying lowincome consumers.

Rules

If you qualify, your household can receive a monthly Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefit of up to \$30 to cover the cost of your internet service and up to \$75 for qualifying households on Tribal lands. Through the program, your internet company may also offer a one-time internet connected device benefit of up to \$100 for a computer, tablet, or laptop with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50.

Your household cannot get the ACP benefit from more than one company. You are only allowed to get one ACP benefit per household, **not per person**.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is separate from the FCC's Lifeline Program. If your household qualifies for both programs, you can apply for and receive both benefits.

Note: Internet companies must also meet certain criteria to participate in the ACP. Check with your company to determine if it participates.

What is a household?

A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses (even if they are not related to each other). Complete the ACP household worksheet to determine if more than one qualifying household is located at your address. If more than one person in your household participates in the ACP, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

Do not give your benefit to another person

The ACP benefit is non-transferable. You cannot give your benefit to another person, even if they qualify for the ACP.

Be honest on this form

You must give accurate and true information on this form and on all ACP related forms or questionnaires. If you give false or fraudulent information, you will lose your benefit (i.e., de-enrollment or being barred from the program) and the United States government can take legal action against you. This may include (but is not limited to) fines or imprisonment.

You may need to show other documents

If the ACP Administrator is not able to validate that you or someone in your household qualify by checking available electronic resources (including eligibility databases for the FCC's government agency partners), you may need to provide additional documents. For example, you may need to provide an official document that proves your participation in a qualifying government assistance program, your income, or your identity. Please include copies of your proof documentation when you submit your application to speed up processing time.

Apply

To apply for the ACP, fill out the required sections of this form, initial every agreement statement, and sign on page 7. You can also apply online at ACPbenefit.org for fastest processing.

Mail the form to this address: USAC ACP Support Center P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742





Your Information

All fields are required unless indicated. Use only CAPITALIZED LETTERS and black ink to fill out this form.

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Your Information (continued)

*Tribal lands include any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, Pueblo, or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma; Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 688); Indian allotments: Hawaiian Home Lands—areas held in trust for Native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, et. seq., as amended; and any land designated as such by the FCC pursuant to the designation process in the FCC's Lifeline rules.

A map of qualifying Tribal lands is available on USAC's website: https://www.usac.org/wp-content/uploads/lifeline/documents/tribal/fcc_tribal_lands_map.pdf.

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Your Information (continued)

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Qualify for the ACP

Fill out this section to show that you, your dependent, or someone in your household qualifies for the ACP.

You can qualify through certain government assistance programs or through your income (you do not need to qualify through both).

When you mail this form, please include documents that show you participate in one of the programs you selected or that you qualify through your income. A list of acceptable documents is available at ACPbenefit.org.

Qualify through a government program:

Supplemental Nutrition Assist	ance Program (SNAP, also called Food Stamps)
Supplemental Security Income	e (SSI)
Medicaid	
Federal Public Housing Assista	nce (FPHA)
Veterans Pension or Survivors	Benefit Programs
Federal Pell Grant for the curre	nt award year
Special Supplemental Nutritio	n Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
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Qualify for the ACP (continued)

Qualify through your income:

15. Including you, how many people live in your household? (check one)	16.Is your income your state and ho (only check yes or no nex	ousehold size?		ount listed	l for
	All 48 States, DC, and Territories	Alaska	Hawaii		
1	\$27,180	\$33,980	\$31,260	Yes	No
2	\$36,620	\$45,780	\$42,120	Yes	No
3	\$46,060	\$57,580	\$52,980	Yes	No
<u> </u>	\$55,500	\$69,380	\$63,840	Yes [No
5	\$64,940	\$81,180	\$74,700	Yes	No
6	\$74,380	\$92,980	\$85,560	Yes [No
7	\$83,820	\$104,780	\$96,420	Yes	No
8	\$93,260	\$116,580	\$107,280	Yes	No
If more than 8, add this amount for each extra person:	Add \$9,440	Add \$11,800	Add \$10,860	Yes	No
200% of the 2022 Federal Poverty Guidel *The Federal Poverty Guidelines are typica		January.			N THE CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRA





Agreement

l agree, under penalty of perjury, to the following statements:

You must initial next to each statement. If you fail to initial each statement, your application will be considered incomplete.

By providing a phone number, you consent to letting USAC contact you at that phone number via artificial or prerecorded voice message or text for important reminders and updates about your ACP benefit. For text messages, message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to end messages.



17. I (or my dependent or other person in my household) currently get benefits from the government program(s) listed on this form or my annual household income is 200% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines (the amount listed in the Federal Poverty Guidelines table on this form).



18. I agree that if I move I will give my internet company my new address within 30 days.



19. I understand that I have to tell my internet company within 30 days if I do not qualify for the ACP anymore, including:

- 1.) I, or the person in my household that qualifies, do not qualify through a government program or income anymore.
- 2.) Either I or someone in my household gets more than one ACP benefit.



20. I know that my household can only get one ACP benefit and, to the best of my knowledge, my household is not getting more than one ACP benefit. I understand that I can only receive one connected device (desktop, laptop, or tablet) through the ACP, even if I switch ACP companies.



21. I agree that all of the information I provide on this form may be collected, used, shared, and retained for the purposes of applying for and/or receiving the ACP benefit. I understand

that if this information is not provided to the Program Administrator, I will not be able to get ACP benefits. If the laws of my state or Tribal government require it, I agree that the state or Tribal government may share information about my benefits for a qualifying program with the ACP Administrator. The information shared by the state or Tribal government will be used only to help find out if I can get an ACP benefit.



22. For my household, I affirm and understand that the ACP is a federal government subsidy that reduces my broadband internet access service bill and at the conclusion of the program, my household will be subject to the company's undiscounted general rates. terms, and conditions if my household continues to subscribe to the service.



23. All the answers and agreements that I provided on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



24. I know that willingly giving false or fraudulent information to get ACP benefits is punishable by law and can result in fines, jail time, de-enrollment, or being barred from the program.

The certification below applies to all consumers and is required to process your application.



25. I was truthful about whether or not I am a resident of Tribal lands, as defined in the "Your Information" section of this form.

26. Signature	27. Today's Date





Representative Information

Representatives who help consumers apply (such as internet company agents, state and Tribal partners, etc.) are required to register in the Representative Accountability Database (RAD) and must enter their Representative ID here.

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How Does the ACP Protect Consumers?

The rules protect Affordable Connectivity Program recipients by:

- Empowering consumers to choose the service plan that best meets their needs (including a plan they may already be on);
- Ensuring consumers have access to supported internet services regardless of their credit status;
- Prohibiting companies from excluding consumers with past due balances or prior debt from enrolling in the program;
- Preventing consumers from being forced into more expensive or lower quality plans in order to receive the ACP;
- · Reducing the potential for bill shock or other financial harms;
- · Allowing ACP recipients to switch companies or internet service offerings; and
- Providing a dedicated FCC process for ACP complaints at https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov.

Privacy Act Statement

This Privacy Act Statement explains how we are going to use the personal information you are entering into this form.

The Privacy Act is a law that requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to explain why we are asking individuals for personal information and what we are going to do with this information after we collect it.

Authority: 47 U.S.C. §254; 47 U.S.C. §1752; 47 CFR Part 54, Subparts E, P, and R.

Purpose: We are collecting this personal information so we can verify your identity and that you qualify for the Lifeline program or similar programs that use income or consumer participation in certain government benefit programs as eligibility criteria, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program. We access, maintain and use your personal information in the manner described in the Lifeline System of Records Notice (SORN), FCC/WCB-1, and the Affordable Connectivity Program SORN, formerly known as the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program SORN, FCC/WCB-3, both available at https://www.fcc.gov/managing-director/privacy-transparency/privacy-act-information#systems/.

Routine Uses: We may share the personal information you enter into this form with other parties for specific purposes, such as:

- With contractors that help us operate the Lifeline program and similar programs that use income or consumer participation in certain government benefit programs as eligibility criteria, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program;
- With other federal and state government agencies and Tribal agencies that help us determine your Lifeline eligibility and
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- With the telecommunications companies and broadband providers that provide you Lifeline service and service under a similar program that uses income or consumer participation in certain federal benefit programs as eligibility criteria, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program;
- With other federal agencies or to other administrative or adjudicative bodies before which the FCC is authorized to appear;
- With appropriate agencies, entities, and persons when the FCC suspects or has confirmed that there has been a breach of information; and
- With law enforcement and other officials investigating potential violations of Lifeline and other program rules.

A complete listing of the ways we may use your information is published in the Lifeline SORN and the Affordable Connectivity Program SORN (formerly known as the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program SORN) described in the "Purpose" paragraph of this statement.

Disclosure: You are not required to provide the information we are requesting, but if you do not, you will not be eligible to receive Lifeline services under the Lifeline Program rules, 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E, or benefits under the Affordable Connectivity Program rules, 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart P and R.





About the ACP

The ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that provides a monthly internet service and one-time connected device benefit from participating internet companies for qualifying low-income consumers.

What this worksheet is for

Use this worksheet if someone else at your address gets the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefit. The answers to these questions will help you find out if there is more than one household at your address.

What is a household?

A household is a group of people who live together and share income and expenses (even if they are not related to each other). Complete the ACP household worksheet to determine if more than one qualifying household is located at your address. If more than one person in your household participates in the ACP, you are breaking the FCC's rules and will lose your benefit.

Examples of one household:

- A married couple who live together are one household. They must share one ACP benefit.
- A parent/guardian and child who live together are one household. They must share one ACP benefit.
- An adult who lives with friends or family who financially support him/her are one household. They must share one ACP benefit.

Examples of more than one household:

- Four roommates who live together but do not share money are four households.
 They can have one ACP benefit each, four total.
- 30 seniors who live in an assisted-living home but do not share money are 30 households. They can have one ACP benefit each, 30 total.

Household expenses

A household shares expenses. Household expenses include, but are not limited to, food, healthcare expenses, and the cost of renting or paying a mortgage on your place of residence and utilities.

Income

Households share income. Income includes salary, public assistance benefits, social security payments, pensions, unemployment compensation, veteran's benefits, inheritances, alimony, child support payments, worker's compensation benefits, gifts, and lottery winnings.

Affordable Connectivity Program **Household Worksheet**





Your Information

All fields are required unless indicated. Use only CAPITALIZED LETTERS and black ink to fill out this form.

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Affordable Connectivity Program Household Worksheet





Can you apply?

Follow this deci to confirm if yo for the ACP.

1. Do you live with another adult?

Adults are people who are 18 years old or older, or who are emancipated minors. This can include a spouse, domestic partner, parent, adult son or daughter, adult in your family, adult roommate, etc.

is decision tree n if you qualify P.	Yes If yes, answer question 2 2. Do they get the AC Yes If yes, answer question 3	No No P benefit?	AA ho	ou can apply for the CP. You live in a pusehold that does not get the benefit yet. Hease initial line (1) on age 4, and sign and gete the worksheet. Check this box
	, and the second	y (income and expenses)		
	with them? This can be the cost of bills, you should check yes for thi	food, etc., and income. If you are is question.	married, Your married are not	ou can apply for the ACP. but live at an address with ore than one household and your household does but get the ACP benefit yet. Sease initial lines
	You do not qualify for household already gets the ACP benefit per household. Check this box	or the ACP because someone he benefit. You are only allowed to ld, not per person.	in your	and ① on page 4, <i>and</i> gn and date the worksheet. Check this box
4. Please check the box Apartment build Transitional hot	-		_	e or assisted living facility)
		more economic households have the address and the number o		
Number of people at ac	idress: Num	nber of people in your economic h	ousehold:	

Affordable Connectivity Program Household Worksheet





Agreement

Please initial the agreement(s) that are required based on your responses from page 3, then sign and date this worksheet. Submit this worksheet with your Affordable Connectivity Program Application Form.

By providing a phone number, you consent to letting USAC contact you at that phone number via artificial or prerecorded voice message or text for important reminders and updates about your ACP benefit. For text messages, message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to end messages.

6. I live at an address with more than on	e household.
	old limit is a Federal Communications Commission Connectivity Program benefit if I break this rule.
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