How big is the broadband affordability gap in MISSISSIPPI?

Affordability has emerged as the number one challenge to closing the digital divide. We have a historic opportunity to close two-thirds of the digital divide by connecting 18 million American households that have access to the Internet but can’t afford to connect.

259,837 Mississippi households have access to the Internet but can’t afford to connect.

America’s unconnected households

The broadband affordability gap makes up 58% of Mississippi’s digital divide.

Households

Population

MISSISSIPPI

NATIONAL

259,837

18.1M

680,772

47M

MISSISSIPPI

NATIONAL

58%

Affordability Gap: 26.2M

68%

18.1M

58%

The federal government is investing in the nation’s largest-ever broadband affordability program.

$20B

...but as few as

17%

America’s most unconnected communities

Largest in our poorest communities.

Significantly higher for Americans with less than a high school education.

Disproportionately impacts Black and Latinx Americans.

America’s most unconnected communities

National

MISSISSIPPI

High school

graduate, some college or associate’s degree

Less than high school graduate or equivalency

Bachelor’s degree or higher

Percent of unconnected households

Percent of households in Mississippi who are eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program have enrolled.

17%

100%

Households with available broadband infrastructure

Households without available broadband infrastructure

Households with available broadband infrastructure that are unconnected for reasons other than a lack of resources

Households with available broadband infrastructure that cannot afford to connect

Households with available broadband infrastructure that are unconnected for reasons other than a lack of resources

Households with available broadband infrastructure that cannot afford to connect

The broadband affordability gap is concentrated in America’s most unconnected communities, where 25% or more of the households lack home broadband.

A Historic opportunity to close the broadband affordability gap. To seize this moment we must:

1. Leverage data to identify unconnected households.
2. Launch adoption programs to help households sign-up for federal broadband programs and home broadband service.
3. Deploy free Wi-Fi to low-income apartment buildings.

www.edsuperhighway.org

www.nohomeleftoffline.org