How big is the broadband affordability gap in Vermont?

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.

23,260 Vermont households have access to the Internet but can’t afford to connect.

The federal government is investing $20B in the nation’s largest-ever broadband affordability program. But as few as 9% of households in Vermont who are eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit program have enrolled.

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 in low-income apartment buildings

The broadband affordability gap makes up two-thirds of Vermont’s digital divide.

The broadband affordability gap rates as high as 47% in Vermont.

According to the Education andthe Digital Divide

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