# Renew the ACP for 23M Households Facing Digital Cliff.

Congress established the **Affordable**Connectivity Program (ACP) in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), allocating \$14.25 billion to ensure broadband would be affordable to all. The ACP bridges the broadband affordability gap, which is two-thirds of our nation's digital divide, and keeps 17 million households offline.

23 million households who currently rely on the ACP to get internet service and stay online face an imminent digital cliff. Unfortunately, ACP funding is projected to run out in the first half of 2024. If Congress does not prioritize adequate and sustained funding for the ACP this year, those families will soon see a spike in their internet bill and many will likely lose service entirely. This would occur just as states prepare to make the most significant broadband investments in history using their Broadband Access, Equity, and Deployment (BEAD) allocation.

Internet Access Is No Longer a Luxury. It's a Necessity. The ACP can keep millions of Americans connected to the digital economy, education, healthcare, the social safety net, and critical government services.

The No Home Left Offline Coalition is a group of over 30 organizations representing non-profits, broadband, housing, healthcare, civil rights, municipalities, and education committed to the development, inclusion, and implementation of equitable policies that close the digital divide.

Please take urgent action to renew this popular program with bipartisan support.

## **Rhode Island**

# 23 MILLION

**U.S. HOUSEHOLDS** rely on the Affordable Connectivity Program.



HOUSEHOLDS IN YOUR STATE

are already enrolled in the ACP.



HOUSEHOLDS IN YOUR STATE

are still eligible but have yet to enroll in the ACP.

At current enrollment rates.

55% OF THE ELIGIBLE POPULATION

in your district will be enrolled by 2024.



Renew the ACP to
CLOSE THE DIGITAL 141K
DIVIDE FOR
people in your state.



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Millions more Americans will be left on the wrong side of the digital divide. Without the ACP,

23M U.S. HOUSEHOLDS

will face an unexpected
jump in their broadband
bill next year.



# In Rhode Island:

An estimated **4K** VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS are enrolled in the ACP.

**3K** are eligible but still unconnected.

An estimated **3K**HOUSEHOLDS IN RURAL AREAS are enrolled in the ACP.

**3K** are eligible but still unconnected.

An estimated **83K**HOUSEHOLDS IN URBAN AREAS are enrolled in the ACP.

**54K** are eligible but still unconnected.

An estimated **4K** HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOME BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE are enrolled in the ACP.

**3K** are eligible but still unconnected.

An estimated **20K** BLACK AND LATINX HOUSEHOLDS are enrolled in the ACP.

**13K** are eligible but still unconnected.

An estimated **21K** SENIOR HOUSEHOLDS are enrolled in the ACP.

**18K** are eligible but still unconnected.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a bipartisan success story. 44% of enrollees live in Republican congressional districts, and 55% in Democratic congressional districts.



Access to home internet increases the annual income of an under-resourced American household by \$2,200.

Majorities in both parties support the ACP:

**64%** of REPUBLICANS and **95%** of DEMOCRATS.



The success of the \$42.45 billion BEAD program is inextricably linked to the ACP.



State broadband leaders must design buildout and procurement opportunities that require participants to participate in the ACP. Broadband Providers are factoring ACP into their decisions to extend networks into rural communities.

**\$108,718,821** IN GRANTS have been invested in Rhode Island to support ACP and BEAD efforts.

### Our Mission

EducationSuperHighway is a national non-profit with the mission to close the digital divide for the 17 million households that have access to the internet but can't afford to connect. From 2012-2020 we led the effort that closed the classroom connectivity gap, connecting 49 million students to high-speed internet in schools.