



TO.  
**President Joseph R. Biden**

**The White House**  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**August 9, 2023**

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Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the African American Mayors Association, we are grateful for your administration's digital equity efforts. From championing deployment and affordability in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to ensuring adoption through the Internet for All Initiative, your administration has taken significant steps to close the digital divide for good.

As you know, the digital divide has had and continues to have a pronounced impact on African American communities, exacerbating the racial inequities that plague our nation. Affordability is a significant barrier keeping African Americans from having an internet connection at home. [Research shows](#) that "America's most unconnected communities," representing poor and African American households, are most impacted by "The Broadband Affordability Gap."

That is why we write to express our support for the reauthorization of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which is estimated to run out of funding in less than a year.

Broadband affordability is vital to addressing our broader racial equity goals. High-speed internet access has proven to be a socio-economic equalizer, delivering access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and education, which are key to combatting the systemic disparities that continue to afflict the Black community.



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The consequences would be dire if ACP is not re-funded in the coming months. The more than 19 million American households that rely on the program would be at risk of losing not only their connection, but also the critical resources that broadband enables. Access to affordable, reliable broadband is essential and seemingly touches every facet of life. Those without access to high-speed internet will be at a severe disadvantage.

We cannot afford to lose the progress we have made on closing the digital divide over the past few years. That is why we urge your administration to make protecting this indispensable program a priority.

Thank you, again, for your efforts. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

**Phyllis Dickerson**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**African American Mayors Association**

CC:

Director Tom Perez, White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Director Stephen Benjamin, White House Office of Public Engagement

