



Reverend Al Sharpton, President & Founder
Reverend Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Chairman of the Board

November 13, 2023

Senator Chuck Schumer
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Dear Leader Schumer,

I request that you include the full President's emergency supplemental funding request of \$6 Billion for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in any upcoming legislative package.

- Continued funding for ACP is critical for vulnerable communities across the country, especially for communities of color.
- There are over 21 Million households enrolled in the program, many of those households right here in NY.
- These families are increasingly facing the prospect of losing that vital connectivity should the ACP program not receive an injection of funding. This would prove to be catastrophic to voters who are key to President Biden's reelection and democratic gains in our state.
- Your support and advocacy for funding the ACP program in any upcoming legislative vehicle is crucial so the most vulnerable Americans can continue to have an equal opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

Background:

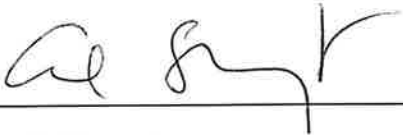
- Established in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the ACP currently provides broadband subsidies to more than 21 million households throughout the country. The program has had great success as millions of families who previously could not get online or struggled to pay for broadband access are now connected to the internet. By helping to secure broadband access, the ACP has allowed millions of Americans to maximize educational opportunities, increase telehealth opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and connect with loved ones.

- At the current rate of enrollment, the ACP's funding will be exhausted as imminently as early next year. Failure to renew funding for the ACP would once again make low-cost broadband internet service unaffordable for millions of families, resulting in a significant loss of internet connectivity nationwide. This would be a significant step backwards in the progress Congress has made to connect more Americans to the internet through additional federal broadband investments.

- The loss of the ACP would also reduce the efficacy of Congress' groundbreaking \$42 billion investment in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. A recent study found that the ACP reduces the subsidy amount needed to incentivize broadband deployment in rural areas by 25 percent per-household.¹ The ACP is necessary to maximize BEAD program dollars intended to build out our nation's broadband infrastructure and ensure that no community gets left behind.

- Congress has recognized, on a bipartisan basis, that every American must be connected to the internet to prosper and compete in a 21st-century economy. We cannot risk millions of families losing access to the internet service they depend on every day by allowing the ACP to lapse. We stand with the Biden Administration in recognizing the ACP as a critical service for American families and a priority for our country. As you work to finalize a government funding package, we urge you to include robust funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program to sustain the program through December of 2024. This funding will keep Americans connected as Congress continues to work to develop a permanent funding pathway for this critical broadband program.

Yours in Progress,



Reverend Al Sharpton

President and Founder, National Action Network

PS I look forward to talking to you today, as your availability permits. My staff is working on this currently.