

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 100

Approved March 13, 2024

WHEREAS, The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), established under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, stands as the largest internet affordability program in our nation's history, currently benefiting 23 million households - encompassing 1 in 6 households across America; and

WHEREAS, In the 21st century, access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet is imperative for education, healthcare, employment, and maintaining social connections; and

WHEREAS, Significant portions of our population, including underserved communities, rural areas, veterans, and older Americans, continue to face barriers in accessing high-speed internet due to infrastructure limitations and prohibitive costs, exacerbating economic, health, and social disparities; and

WHEREAS, The Biden-Harris Administration has collaborated with internet service providers to offer fully covered high-speed internet plans through the Affordable Connectivity Program, thereby enabling most eligible households to access high-speed internet at no cost; and

WHEREAS, Failure to extend funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program by Congress would jeopardize the ability of millions of Americans to afford high-speed internet, undermining crucial aspects of daily life and hindering socio-economic advancement; and

WHEREAS, A significant portion of ACP beneficiaries consists of military families, seniors, African American, Latino, and Native American households, with enhanced subsidies provided for households on Tribal lands where high-speed internet costs are typically higher; and



WHEREAS, Rhode Island has seen substantial benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program, with over 83,307 households in every Congressional District benefiting from the program, resulting in monthly savings of approximately \$2.2 million for Rhode Island families; and

WHEREAS, The Biden-Harris Administration has submitted a supplemental request for \$6 billion to Congress on October 25, 2023, aimed at extending funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council strongly urges the U.S. Congress to approve the supplemental funding request of \$6 billion to extend the Affordable Connectivity Program, ensuring continued access to affordable high-speed internet for millions of Americans and furthering equitable socio-economic progress nationwide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council commends the Biden-Harris Administration for its efforts in addressing the digital divide through the Affordable Connectivity Program; and

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 07 2024
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 3/13/2024

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Offices of Mayor Brett Smiley, U.S. Representative Seth Magaziner, U.S. Representative Gabe Amo, U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and U.S. Senator Jack Reed.