



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
Hart Senate Office Building, 317
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Kelly
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema and Senator Kelly,

I write to request that you renew funding for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This program is essential to supporting over 400,000 Arizona low-income and historically marginalized families with their monthly internet bill and thereby ensuring Arizonans have access to affordable internet.

Research shows that U.S. internet providers are among the world's highest, particularly in rural and tribal communities.¹ For example, internet service on the Navajo Nation is on average \$21.70 to \$44.01 more expensive than elsewhere in the country, making it unaffordable for the many with incomes under the poverty level to afford the internet.² As Governor, I am committed to ensuring that all families in Arizona have access to affordable and reliable broadband.

As you know, the ACP provides low-income families a discount of up to \$30 per month, and up to \$75 per month for families on tribal lands, on their internet bills. Further, the program provides a one-time \$100 discount toward a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet. If ACP is not renewed this year, funding is expected to run out mid-2024, resulting in 414,778 Arizona families and 19 million families nationwide suddenly facing an increased broadband bill.³

As the state is preparing to deploy the almost \$1 billion dollars from the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, this program is essential to protect affordable internet prices once broadband infrastructure is deployed across the state.

¹<https://www.newamerica.org/oti/reports/cost-connectivity-navajo-nation/#:~:text=The%20average%20advertised%20monthly%2C%20non.plans%20across%20the%20United%20States.>

²<https://www.epi.org/blog/2016-acr-shows-stubbornly-high-native-american-poverty-and-different-degrees-of-economic-well-being-for-asian-ethnic-groups/>

³<https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/no-home-left-offline/acp-data/#dashboard>

Thank you for your ongoing leadership on this matter. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your offices to ensure broadband is accessible, available and affordable for all Arizona families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs
Governor
State of Arizona