



November 14, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Civil Rights Organizations Demand Congress to Prioritize ACP Funding Before Looming Government Shutdown**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries,

We, the undersigned groups, write to emphasize the dire need for Congress to pass 6 billion dollars in supplemental funding to sustain the Affordable Connectivity Program (“ACP”) through the end of 2024. As of October 25, 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration requested Congress to appropriate emergency funding for critical domestic issues, including \$6 billion earmarked for ACP to ensure eligible households across the country remain connected online. **We strongly urge Congress to prioritize this funding request before the government shuts down as the current ACP fund is expected to deplete in 2024 — depriving over 21 million households of vital internet services in the ever changing digital age.**

ACP is a product of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, a historic investment package accomplished by Congress and President Biden to support the American people in more ways than one. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Act recognized the existing digital divide, which continues to disproportionately affect low-income families from rural areas and historically underserved communities. ACP has been monumental in closing the digital divide by alleviating the financial burden associated with high-speed internet costs. Today, eligible households from *all* districts reap the benefits of affordable, high-speed internet through ACP – connecting Americans to the digital economy, expanding telehealth services, and supporting students in remote learning opportunities.



Without the additional \$6 billion, millions of Americans reliant on ACP *will* lose access to high-speed internet, a fundamental civil right in the 21st century. In an evolving digital ecosystem, low-income and marginalized households in *all* districts cannot afford this risk. **It is imperative and urgent for Congress to take action *now* to secure ACP funding for 2024 and continue to strategize long-term solutions that establish equitable access to broadband services for all. Pass the \$6 billion for ACP today to ensure millions of families do not lose access to the internet.**

Yours in the Movement,

Brenda Victoria Castillo  
President & CEO  
National Hispanic Media Coalition

Frankie Miranda  
President & CEO  
Hispanic Federation

Maya Wiley  
President & CEO  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Derrick Johnson  
President & CEO  
NAACP

Rev Al Sharpton  
Founder & President  
National Action Network

Marc H. Morial  
President & CEO  
National Urban League

Janet Murguía  
President & CEO  
UnidosUS