

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-R-114

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, URGING CONGRESS TO RENEW AND EXTEND THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on December 31, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a longer-term program replacing the Emergency Broadband Benefit which helped almost 9 million afford Internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program is a national, U.S. government program giving low-income households a discount of up to \$30 per month for internet service, up to a \$75 per month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands, and discounts on computer devices costs; and

WHEREAS, eligibility includes households with income below 200% of the federal poverty level or who are receiving benefits such as SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program, funded at \$14.2 billion, has enrolled more than 16 million households, saving low-income households almost \$500 million per month; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the reality of inequitable and detrimental gaps in internet access, adoption, and affordability for underserved groups and showed how our digital networks are woven into every aspect of our personal and professional lives and serve as the critical backbone for our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program has been one of the most effective broadband benefit programs to date with its direct-to-consumer model to enroll low-income households and help ensure they can afford the internet connections they need for work, school, healthcare, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program is likely to run out of funds by mid-2024, and extending the broadband benefit (not devices) for an additional five years could potentially cost \$30-\$35 billion; and

WHEREAS, households without high-speed internet are more likely to have incomes under \$25,000 and include school-aged kids, communities of color, rural communities, older Americans; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 5 Americans without home internet cite cost as the factor; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable, reliable high-speed internet is compounding economic, health, and other disparities; and

WHEREAS, the Biden-Harris administration furthered its digital equity commitment in 2022 and launched the \$45 billion "Internet for All" initiative to bring affordable, reliable high-speed internet to everyone in America by the end of the decade; and

WHEREAS, cities have created Affordable Connectivity Program dashboards to transparently, responsibly, and equitably monitor ACP enrollment by zip codes to ensure areas with the lowest median incomes receive the most attention and outreach efforts to build awareness and enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Connectivity Program has been the most important tool for cities in moving the needle to close the digital divide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Incorporation. The above WHEREAS clauses are hereby incorporated by reference into this Resolution.

Section 2. Call to Congress. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami hereby urges Congress to renew and extend the Affordable Connectivity Program funding in 2024 to ensure currently enrolled ACP low-income households continue to have access to affordable high-speed internet, recognizing that closing the digital divide will allow Americans to access the resources they need and strengthen the U.S. economy to compete in the 21st Century.

Section 3. Conflicts. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. Effective Date. That this Resolution shall be in force and take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 5 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 11th day of July, 2023.



ALIX DESULME, Ed.D.
MAYOR

ATTEST:



VANESSA JOSEPH, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR ALIX DESULME

CO-SPONSORED BY: VICE-MAYOR MARY ESTIMÉ-IRVIN

Moved by: Desulme

Seconded by: Timothe

Vote:

Mayor Alix Desulme, Ed.D.

(Yes) _____ (No)

Vice-Mayor Mary Estimé-Irvin

(Yes) _____ (No)

Councilman Scott Galvin

(Yes) _____ (No)

Councilwoman Kassandra Timothe, MPA

(Yes) _____ (No)

Councilman Pierre Frantz Charles

(Yes) _____ (No)