



## **Make Opportunity Possible with Affordable Internet at Home**

Around the nation, parents spend hours parked at fast-food restaurants so their children can get on the Internet to do homework assignments. Seniors sit disconnected in their homes without an online connection to stay in touch with family or obtain life-saving health information. Job hunters struggling to join the workforce wait in line at the library to gain Internet access so they can complete online job applications.

Make opportunity possible for these people and the 80 million across America who currently live without high-speed Internet service at home.

Internet for All Now is a campaign of the California Emerging Technology Fund and partners. The goal of Internet for All Now is to demand that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) take two critical steps to help close the Digital Divide. **First**, establish an inclusive Broadband Lifeline Program that addresses the 3 primary barriers to broadband adoption: (1) Cost; (2) Relevance; and (3) Digital Literacy.

- Establishment of an affordable high-speed Internet service plan for all low-income households offered by and through all broadband providers (in the \$10/month range) with sufficient speeds and a wireless modem for compatibility with school-issued devices.
- Capitalization of an independent fund to support community-based organizations (CBOs), schools and libraries (as "trusted messengers") to assist in enrolling eligible low-income households and participate in true public-private partnerships:
  - Amount of capitalization and length of time set according to adopted goals for broadband adoption (such as 80% broadband adoption by 2020).
  - Administered through state regulatory commissions that opt-in (a multi-state fund for rest of nation) with fund managers selected through an open, competitive process.
  - Performance-based grants with accountability for results.
- Establishment of an oversight advisory body to ensure transparency and accountability with a broad base of stakeholders and community leaders knowledgeable about broadband adoption.

And **second**, require corporate consolidations to improve and expand affordable home Internet service if it approves proposed mergers.

We know first-hand from working on the front lines that the most disadvantaged populations are up against a "wall of poverty" that demands concerted and purposeful action from our policymakers.

The 5 Commissioners of the FCC have the fate of 25% of Californians and residents nationwide in their hands with the authority to make an immediate transforming difference in their lives through Digital Inclusion. They need to hear from us.

To meet National Broadband Plan goals, adopted by the FCC in 2010, the California Emerging Technology Fund is working to achieve 98% home Internet adoption in California by 2023. CETF working with its partners, more than 100 non-profits, libraries, and schools, are helping low-income Californians obtain affordable high-speed Internet access at home, low-cost computing devices and digital literacy training.

We cannot wait any longer, we need affordable Internet for all now!