

OFFICE OF PUBLIC & INDIAN HOUSING

June 21, 2023

Dear Executive Director,

If you take just a second to think about it, it's astonishing how much the internet has revolutionized our lives. Doctors are a video call away, we work with colleagues across the country in real time, and we've got whole libraries full of information at our fingertips. Yet for many of the families you serve, internet access remains just out of reach. With the <u>Affordable Connectivity Program</u> (ACP) and your help, I know we can make major strides in closing the digital divide and expanding broadband access for more than 4 million HUD-assisted families.

One of the best things you can do to close the digital divide is help residents enroll in ACP today. ACP offers your households up to \$30/month discount for broadband service and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a computer or tablet (through participating Internet Service Providers). Your residents *automatically* qualify for ACP and the subsidy is not considered income for the purpose of determining program eligibility or household rent.

I'm asking for your help with spreading the word to residents because I've seen firsthand the impact affordable internet has on their lives.

My recommendation, and what we've heard from a lot of other PHAs, is that direct text messages, enrollment events with local Internet Service Providers, and pairing ACP promotional materials with pre-planned mailings really works to boost enrollment. Safe summer and block party events are another terrific way to reach families to share the good news about ACP as part of your ongoing resident service and outreach programs.

HUD's nonprofit partner, EducationSuperHighway (ESH) is making it even easier to share the ACP resources with these specially developed tools:

- <u>ACP pre-enrollment tool</u>, which walks residents through the process and shows residents the documentation they'll need to have ready to demonstrate eligibility.
- <u>Resident enrollment tool for staff</u>.
- Outreach materials in nine languages.

The FCC's <u>ACP Outreach Toolkit</u> is another great resource.

These links have everything you need to get information direct to your residents. When they're ready to enroll, they can go to <u>GetInternet.gov</u> or call 877-384-2575 if they'd like to request a paper application.

With your help, I know we can increase access to affordable broadband to close the digital divide for the seniors, families and children we serve.

Many thanks,

Richard J. Monorchio

Richard J. Monocchio Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary



We hope you enjoy receiving these messages from HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing.

Public Housing Agency contact information is retrieved from HUD's Public Housing Information Center (PIC). If your agency's contact information is out of date, please update PIC with the correct contact information. We update our email lists from PIC twice a month, so you should see your change reflected after two weeks.

Thank you for furthering HUD's mission in the communities you serve.