



## Expanding Internet Access Call to Action Network Email & Letter to Congress

### Call-to-Action Messages to Advocates:

**Subject Line:** *Act now to ensure that **all** Americans have access to life-sustaining internet services*

*Issue Summary:* The digital divide is an equity issue that exacerbates disparities around educational achievement, voter participation, economic mobility, and countless other nonprofit priorities. It's abundantly clear that there are extensive and persistent divides in this nation between those who can easily access the internet and those who cannot. With COVID-19 cases predicted to fluctuate in the coming months, increasing access to internet and digital services is critical to ensure the global pandemic does not further isolate or neglect vulnerable members of our communities.

### Call-to-Action Email to Individual Advocates:

Dear {Name},

While the systemic fixes needed to permanently close the digital divide in this nation may be beyond the scope of the forthcoming relief package, a significant investment to expand access to critical, life-sustaining services is an attainable and necessary measure that must be taken to improve the quality of life.

The digital divide is an equity issue that exacerbates disparities around educational achievement, voter participation, economic mobility, and countless other nonprofit priorities. In 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reported that 21.3 million Americans lack access to broadband availability. It's abundantly clear that there are extensive and persistent divides in this nation between those who can easily access the internet and those who cannot. With COVID-19 cases predicted to fluctuate in the coming months, increasing access to internet and digital services is critical to ensure the global pandemic does not further isolate or neglect vulnerable members of our communities. We need Congress to act now to ensure all households in their community are able to participate in school, access telemedicine, job search, and attend spiritual or cultural programs.

Take 60 seconds to send an automated letter to your Member of Congress. While the systemic fixes needed to permanently close the digital divide in this nation may be beyond the scope of the forthcoming relief package, an emergency investment to expand access to critical, life-sustaining services is an attainable and necessary measure that must be taken to improve the quality of life.

Sincerely,  
{Organization}

### Thank You:

Thank you {{contact\_first\_name}} for supporting our efforts to bridge the digital divide by expanding broadband access to our nation's most vulnerable communities. We encourage you to share this link with your personal and professional networks to inspire others to take action today!



**Letter to Congress:**

Dear {{target\_appropriate\_greeting}},

The digital divide in America has never been more apparent amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. It's abundantly clear that there are extensive and persistent divides in this nation between those who can easily access the internet and those who cannot. During these extraordinary times, the people served by the nonprofit community are increasingly dependent on reliable internet in order to access a variety of charitable services, including public health information, telemedicine, unemployment resources, education, artistic inspiration, religious services, and more.

With COVID-19 cases predicted to fluctuate in the coming months, emergency funding would help to ensure that the ongoing pandemic does not further isolate or neglect rural and marginalized communities. Although we appreciate the CARES Act's initial investment of \$50 million to provide internet service, devices and tech support, significantly more emergency funding is required to meet community needs. Specifically, I urge you to provide at least \$1.5 billion for Wi-Fi hotspots and connected devices for students, schools, homes, and library patrons; \$4 billion for emergency home connectivity needs; and \$24 million for the FCC to develop improved broadband coverage maps to inform future programs.

The debate on whether internet access is a luxury or an essential component for survival is over. The nonprofit sector needs your assistance to bridge the digital divide as we seek to help our communities recover from this unprecedented crisis. As a valued constituent and representative of the nation's third largest employer, I implore you to take swift Congressional action to fund access to critical, life-sustaining internet services.

Sincerely,

{{contact\_full\_name}}  
{{contact\_address}}