

December 1st, 2023

The Honorable Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Pocan
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Funding

Dear Senator Johnson, Senator Baldwin, and Representative Pocan,

As members of the Dane County Broadband Task Force, we are writing to respectfully urge you to extend funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. These discounts are absolutely vital in bridging the digital divide.

We have seen firsthand the impact that the ACP has for Dane County residents. As of September 2023, there were 24,529 ACP subscribers in Dane County and 341,745 in total for Wisconsin. The ACP provides these subscribers with the ability to connect and meaningfully engage in today's modern society. Without the ACP, these subscribers and eligible households across Dane County, Wisconsin, and the Nation would unfortunately fall behind. This would only further exacerbate the digital divide that already exists today.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$14.2 billion for the ACP but now is expected to run out of funding in **April of 2024**. We urge you and other members of Congress to create long term, sustainable funding for the ACP.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Jaron McCallum, Dane County's Broadband Coordinator at McCallum.Jaron@countyofdane.com or via phone at 608-206-6316.

Sincerely,

Members of the Dane County Broadband Task Force

cc: Jaron McCallum, Dane County Broadband Coordinator
Wisconsin Broadband Office, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin