

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$600,000 in Federal Funds Awarded to Multicultural Media Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) to Support Affordability Efforts Through Black Churches 4 Digital Equity

Funds will enable outreach through Black churches to raise awareness about the Affordable Connectivity Program

Washington D.C. — The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently [announced](#) the recipients of \$66 million in funding to support outreach efforts around the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC), which runs the Black Churches 4 Digital Equity (BC4DE) coalition, will receive \$600,000 of funding to expand their outreach and community engagement around the ACP through their network of fellows and church partners.

“We are so proud to have received this recognition, and even more proud to roll up our sleeves and keep doing the important work we’ve started to expand digital equity across our network of communities,” said Dr. Fallon Wilson, Vice President of Policy at MMTC. “The Affordable Connectivity Program is a crucial step in the right direction towards closing the digital divide, and we have seen firsthand what a difference it can make for communities,” she said.

The ACP provides eligible households with a monthly discount of \$30 on their internet service, and up to \$100 off of a device purchase. The program, a continuation of the pandemic-related Emergency Broadband Benefit, is funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and is one vital component of the unprecedented funding for expanding access to broadband and internet access.

While this funding has been available since 2021, it’s estimated that [only one in four](#) eligible households have enrolled to receive the discount since its inception, meaning millions of people are not participating in a program they qualify for. Advocates, like the leaders at MMTC, believe the FCC has taken a step in the right direction with providing the outreach funding so that community groups can reach those who meet the qualifying criteria, but who have yet to enroll.

“Churches are hubs of community connection and resilience. The Affordable Connectivity Program can be a huge asset to households, but only if they are aware of it,” said Robert E. Branson, Esq., President and CEO of MMTC. Branson continued, “that is where our church communities serve a role as powerful conduits for change and progress.”

About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide on behalf of its members and constituents, including owners of radio and television broadcast stations, programmers, prospective station owners, and others involved in the TMT industries. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications. MMTC's vision is to achieve a fully connected, educated, healthy, and empowered society in which all communities thrive. Visit MMTC's website here:

<https://www.mmtconline.org/>.

About BC4DE:

Black Churches 4 Digital Equity (BC4DE) is a coalition working to educate members of our community about broadband internet assistance programs, encourage unconnected households to get online, to train and organize leaders as advocates to get their communities connected, and to advance digital equity through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). BC4DE believes that Black churches have always worked to connect resources to the community—and digital access is no different. The Black Churches 4 Digital Equity movement organizes and empowers Black church leaders to use their trusted voices to advocate for digital equity, raise awareness of low-cost internet options, and encourage our community to sign up. Visit the BC4DE website here: <https://www.blackchurches4digitalequity.com/>.