GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM
Executive Committee

smart
island

January 17, 2024

Luis D. Dávila Pernas
Executive Director
Federal Affairs Administration
PRFAA
ldavila@prfaa.pr.gov

RE: Affordable Connectivity Program

Dear Mr. Dávila,

Greetings from the Government of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rico Broadband Committee, and all team members of the Smart Island team.

It has come to our attention the possible shutdown of the Affordable Connectivity Program due to the lack of additional funding for the next fiscal year. This federal subsidy benefits 640,016 households in Puerto Rico and so many in the Continental United States.

The Smart Island Program would appreciate your assistance in the efforts being made for the Federal Communications Commission to acknowledge the importance and impact this can make in the citizens of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico, if we are not mistaken, has one of the highest ranks in households enrolled for this program with a total of 1.2 million households being eligible. We include specific statistics below:

Total Households: 1,563,129
Total Enrolled: 640,016
Households Eligible Percentage: 55%
Total Spent in District (as of November 2023): $386,073,449

A critical sector of Puerto Rico will be affected from this possible shutdown of the program, which empowers the PRBP to work harder to achieve digital equity. Considering the above, the Puerto Rico Broadband Program pledges support in putting our offices available to cooperate with this matter and any other topic that may contribute to the benefit of our citizens.

If you or the FCC believe that we need to make our voice heard in other forums and with other actions, please let us know, we are more than willing to discuss the alternatives. For any questions, additional information or if you wish to coordinate a meeting to continue the conversation, do not hesitate to contact Alexandra Rivera-Arzuaga ararzuaga@fortaleza.pr.gov or (787) 721-7000 ext. 1567.

Cordially,

Enrique A. Völckers-Nin
Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Broadband Program
Under Secretary of Innovation, Information, Data and Technology