



January 17, 2024

Ms. Jessica Rosenworcel, Esq.
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission of the United States
jessica.rosenworcel@fcc.gov

RE: Affordable Connectivity Program

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

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, since established, has made outreach efforts one of its top priorities. We have visited numerous communities in which we assisted in the application of ACP and have seen firsthand the importance of this program and how much it contributes to end the digital divide and provide internet access for all.

Puerto Rico, if we are not mistaken, has one of the highest rates in households enrolled per capita for this program (640,016) with a total of 1.2 million households being eligible. We include specific statistics below:

Total Households: 1,563,129

Total Enrolled: 640,016

Total 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 me and/or Alexandra Rivera-Arzuaga at ararzuaga@fortaleza.pr.gov or (787) 721-7000 ext. 1567.

Cordially,

A blue ink signature of Enrique A. Völckers-Nin, written in a cursive style.

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