



PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
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## **NHMC Advocates for FCC Policies to Extend Telephone and Broadband Internet Service to Every Home in the Nation**

Pasadena, CA. - On Thursday, July 16th, NHMC submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission on the Lifeline and Link Up universal service programs. Currently, these programs help subsidize telephone service in low income homes across the country. The FCC is in the process of reforming and updating the programs to reflect the needs of today's society.

NHMC urged the FCC to improve outreach initiatives since many people whom the programs are designed for are unaware that the programs exist. NHMC also advocated that broadband Internet access be subsidized much like telephone connections are today, but then cautioned that broadband subsidies not be granted at the expense of the current telephone subsidies, which continue to bring telephone service to many homes that would otherwise be unconnected.

NHMC supports expanding the Lifeline and Link Up programs to subsidize broadband because the Internet can open doors for communities of color, low income communities and other historically disadvantaged groups to exercise their rights to fully participate in this country's democracy and for upward mobility for current and future generations.

"In this day and age, access to everything the Internet provides is not just a luxury, but rather a necessity," stated Jessica J. Gonzalez, NHMC's Vice President of Policy and Legal Affairs. "People of color and the poor are far less likely than others to have broadband access at home, and we all know that those without Internet access cannot compete in this society because they are unable to access things that many of us take for granted, such as financial aid and job applications, online learning experiences, information about health and transportation, research for homework assignments, and countless other important opportunities."

NHMC's comment can be read [here](#).

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The National Hispanic Media Coalition is a non-profit, media advocacy organization established in 1986 in Los Angeles, California. Our mission is to improve the image of American Latinos as portrayed by the media, increase the number of American Latinos employed in all facets of the media industry, and advocate for media and telecommunications policies that benefit the Latino community.