

## Lifeline COVID-19 Statement

March 24, 2020

As COVID-19 spreads across the United States and halts nearly every aspect of our everyday lives, it has never been more critical for all Americans to have reliable, affordable access to telephone and internet services at home. This is particularly true for the Latinx community, with nearly a third of Latinx families lacking access to in-home internet. Our community should not be left behind as families stay home to protect their health, whether by not accessing e-learning opportunities, not having sufficient connection to work from home, or by not having access to life-saving information and help via phone.

NHMC has historically and continues to be a strong defender of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Lifeline program--the only subsidy available to help low income individuals afford communications services. This week NHMC [joins over 200 allies in urging the FCC](#) to immediately prohibit the disconnection of Lifeline subscribers, require Lifeline providers to offer unlimited minutes and text messages, and to create an Emergency Lifeline Broadband Benefit.

NHMC also urges Congress to include support for current and eligible Lifeline subscribers in any stimulus package it considers over the next several weeks. Americans need access to the internet while they shelter at home, regardless of their financial situation, particularly during the current uncertain economic times.

The time for the FCC to act is now. As Americans from coast to coast adjust to social distancing and self-quarantine efforts, we urge the FCC to recommit to closing the digital divide and utilize the Lifeline program to the best of its abilities.

In Solidarity,

Brenda Victoria Castillo  
President & CEO  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
[www.nhmc.org](http://www.nhmc.org)