



Homework Gap

Request: Make permanent and provide an additional \$7.1 billion to the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to ensure that all students and teachers have the secure, high capacity broadband and technology devices required for learning at home.

Background: The Commission to date has committed more than \$6.6 billion in program funding to provide over 17 million students with broadband connections and equipment. Absent additional federal funding, however, many students and teachers could lose their ability to participate in digital learning—from homework to classroom integration to blended learning or fully virtual settings—when they are off-campus. Erasing the home connectivity gains achieved during the past two years would devastate students, especially for low income, rural, and minority learners who have traditionally been disproportionately harmed by the Homework Gap.

Talking Points: Make Permanent and Provide Additional Funding for the Highly Successful Emergency Connectivity Fund

- Congress should permanently authorize the ECF and allocate \$7.1 billion for fiscal year 2024 for the FCC to continue the program.
- Consistent with the ECF's current requirements, funding should be available to public and private schools, public libraries, and consortia of the same to purchase Internet access and connected devices (including hotspots, routers, modems, and computers) for students, educators and library patrons who lack home Internet access, a connected device, or both.
- A replenished ECF program will serve as a powerful complement to the broadband infrastructure grants provided by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in November 2021. Many households will not be able to take advantage of broadband infrastructure improvements made by the IIJA, unless dedicated funding—like the ECF—is available for students and instructional staff to make broadband affordable and fast in all communities.