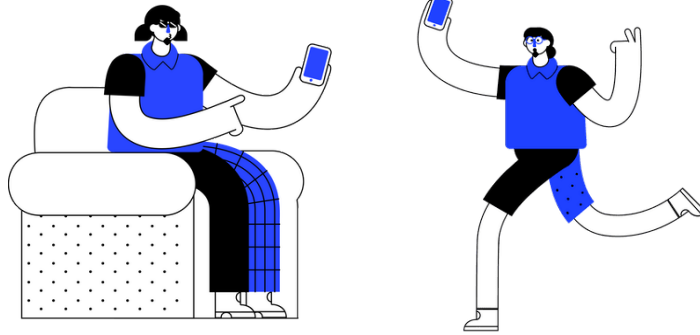


# Join Us to Connect the Unconnected



## Why is this important?

Internet access is a human right as declared by the UN. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many individuals from marginalized groups face lack of access after the shutdown of schools, libraries, cafes, and other public spaces they were relying on for free and public Wi-Fi. Digital inclusion is integral to our interconnected ecosystem, and the capacity for all to have access to affordable and reliable broadband internet is a key part of helping everyone stay connected.

In the United States, 13% of the population is offline and in order to close the digital divide, all stakeholders need to unite in order to create innovative solutions.

## What are we proposing?

→ Community-based approach leveraging existing infrastructure which aims to decouple infrastructural maintenance from the commercial interests of ISPs.

→ Building a partnership-based donation campaign that bolsters awareness, support, and action toward expanding the reach of existing broadband networks located in municipal spaces.

→ Facilitating partnerships between libraries, the private sector, and existing community network initiatives focused on low-cost internet access to help libraries expand Internet access in densely populated metropolitan areas.

## What can you do?

- Spread the word about your local community network, talk to your friends and family, and share campaign updates on social media.
- Donate and invite others to donate to our campaign.
- Contact us if you are an organization or private company and interested in donating equipment, raising awareness, or partnering with us.
- Contact your local representatives to advocate for an increase in library funding to expand broadband access. Feel free to use this flyer as a template.
- Talk to your local library team about joining the campaign.