



A VISION FOR BLACK LIVES: **POLICY DEMANDS FOR BLACK POWER, FREEDOM, & JUSTICE**

Full Access to Technology – Including Net Neutrality and Universal Access to the Internet without Discrimination – and Full Representation For All

What is the problem?

- The Internet is the most powerful and creative communications advancement of the 21st century. [Yet, more than 100 million people in the U.S. live without it.](#) A recent [Pew Research report](#) found that at-home broadband access for Black people is far below that of the national average. Closing the digital divide means bringing offline communities to the same Internet all of us experience.
- In February of 2015, the Federal Communications Commission [passed the strongest Net Neutrality rules in history](#) by regulating the Internet as a utility. The CEOs of the major Internet Service Providers in the U.S. challenged these net neutrality rules in court and lost. That hasn't stopped companies from engaging in discriminatory behavior that exposes their users to a second class Internet experience.
- If our communities can access an open and affordable Internet, then we can shape a future that sustains our communities and is good for the country.

What does this solution do?

- Ensure universal, affordable, and community-controlled access to the Internet, for all Black people and oppressed communities at large.

Federal Action:

- Stop any legislation that weakens or overturns the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Net Neutrality rules and Lifeline reforms.
- Federal agencies should adopt rules that eliminate discriminatory practices like Zero Rating that expose vulnerable communities to a second class Internet experience.
- Expand nationwide federal programs that provide affordable or free Internet for residents of public housing.
- Federal and state agencies should require the buildout of broadband infrastructure in housing projects that utilize public funding.
- Federal resources should be made available to support broadband buildout in rural communities.

State Action:

- States with their own Lifeline funds should modernize them to include support for broadband.



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- Federal and state agencies should overturn laws that prevent local municipalities from building their own broadband network, especially for rural communities.

Local Action:

- Municipalities should allocate resources to fund digital literacy programs targeting poor communities and communities of color.
- Local municipalities should build their own free city wide broadband networks.

Resources:

- [Community Broadband Network Toolkit](#)
- [Right to Connect Lifeline Toolkit](#).

Organizations Currently Working on Policy:

- Center for Media Justice
- Color of Change
- Free Press
- 18 Million Rising
- The Leadership Conference
- Media Mobilizing Project
- The Utility Reform Network
- Native Public Media
- National Council of La Raza
- Center for Rural Strategies
- American Indian Policy Inst. (ASU)

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