

Sept. 10, 2020

#### Pai Praises DigitalBridgeK-12 Program, Urges Use of CARES Act Funds

Regional and national broadband service providers, in conjunction with the EducationSuperHighway (ESH), are launching programs through which school districts can identify students without at-home broadband service and purchase service for low-income families, under the umbrella DigitalBridgeK-12. NTCA, NCTA, and USTelecom are partners in the project.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai issued a statement applauding the initiative, adding a reiteration of his call “for states and school districts to take advantage of the \$16 billion in CARES Act funding that can be used to connect our nation’s students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The FCC has been working with the U.S. Department of Education to raise awareness of this CARES Act funding for remote learning, and this money is already having a positive impact. For example, in the District of Columbia, the CARES Act is making it possible for the D.C. government to cover monthly Internet bills for tens of thousands of children in low-income families who attend local public and charter schools. Similar initiatives using CARES Act funds have been launched in other states, including Alabama and Connecticut, to ensure low-income students are able to engage in remote learning during the ongoing pandemic.” —Lynn Stanton, [lynn.stanton@wolterskluwer.com](mailto:lynn.stanton@wolterskluwer.com)

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