

MONTEREY COUNTY



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September 29, 2020

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RE: Participation in the California LifeLine Program

Dear Internet Service Providers of Monterey County:

On behalf of the County of Monterey Board of Supervisors, we write to thank those companies that are participating in the California LifeLine Program, and urge those that are not, to do so.

As you know, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California LifeLine Program provides discounted home phone, cell phone, and internet services to eligible households. The California LifeLine discounts help consumers lower the cost of their phone and internet bills.

In Monterey County, similarly to the State as a whole, the California LifeLine program is significantly underutilized. Within the 30th Assembly District there are a total of 122,490 residents that currently qualify for this program, yet only 14% are enrolled. The 30th Assembly District includes the Salinas Valley (Salinas, Soledad, Gonzales, Greenfield and King Cities), all of San Benito County, the Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County, and the City of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County.

With the current pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people working from home, and school children participating in distance learning, it is now more important than ever to ensure our most vulnerable populations have access to affordable and reliable broadband, and that California end the digital divide.

Although internet service providers are not required to participate, they are eligible and therefore we are respectfully asking that you consider participating in this important program to help the most vulnerable populations in our County.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Hon. Jimmy Panetta, 20th Congressional District
Hon. Bill Monning, 17th Senate District
Hon. Anna Caballero, 12th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 30th Assembly District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District
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