



# #Disconnected: COVID-19 and the Digital Divide

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Friday, April 24  
11:30am-12:30pm ET

 **ASPEN DIGITAL**  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

THURGOOD MARSHALL  
ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL



UNITED  
WE  
STAND

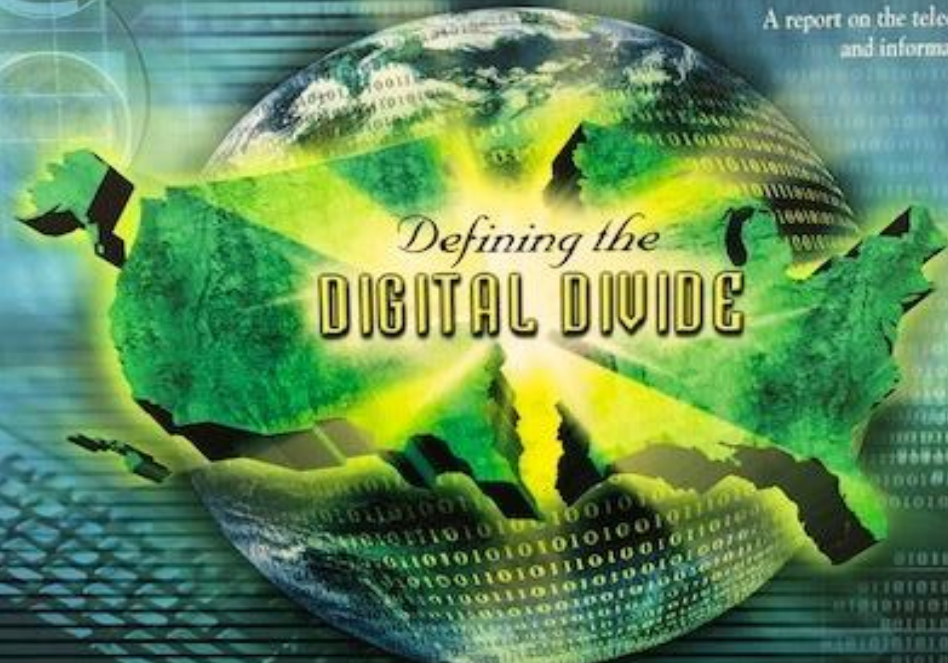
CAUTION

RESISTANCE

# Falling Through The Net

A report on the telecommunications  
and information technology  
gap in America

July 1999



*Defining the*  
**DIGITAL DIVIDE**

Communication

Connection

Information

[www.ntia.doc.gov](http://www.ntia.doc.gov)

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

**“11% of Americans are offline”**

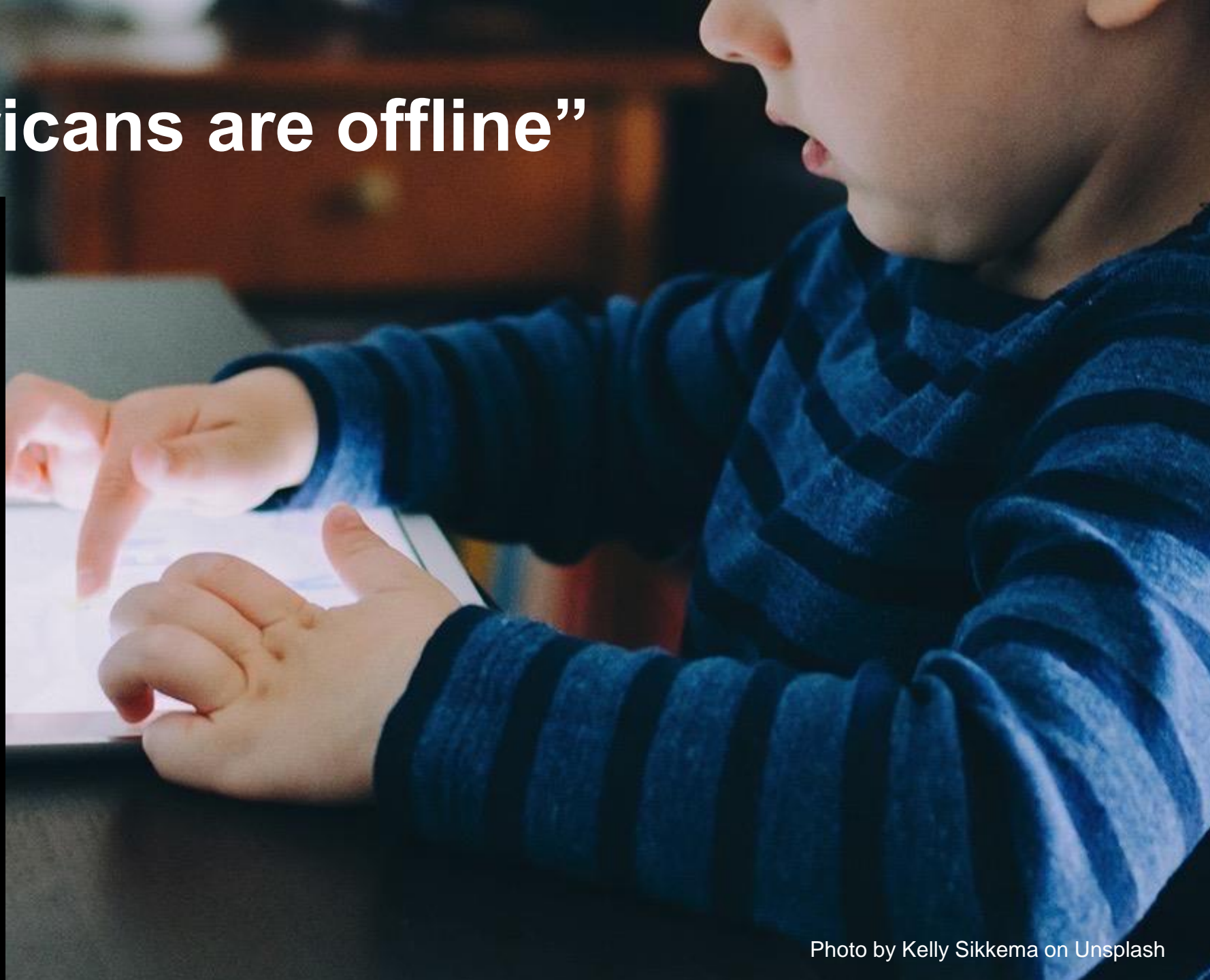
**sounds less  
terrible than 27M  
American adults  
don't use the  
internet**

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**87M don't have  
home broadband**

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**50M are smartphone-  
dependent for  
internet**





**141 million people in the U.S. don't have fixed home Internet at the FCC's outdated 25 down, 3 up broadband definition. That's nearly 43% of Americans. Home broadband adoption rates aren't increasing: they've remained stable for the past 3 years.**

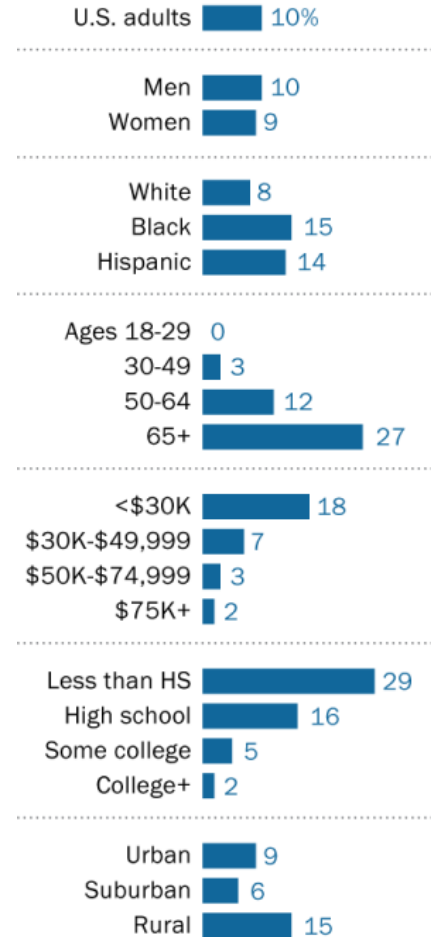
Pew Research Center:  
79% of white U.S. adults  
have home broadband,  
while the same is true of  
only 66% of black adults  
and 61% of Hispanics

92% of Americans  
making \$75,000 or more  
annually have home  
broadband, while only  
56% making less than  
\$30,000 do.



## Who's not online in 2019?

*% of U.S. adults who say they do not use the internet*



Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 8-Feb. 7, 2019.

# Eliminate Homework Gap

**US 70% of teachers** assign homework requiring Broadband connectivity

**5M low income** US homes with children don't have Internet

**Homework Gap** disproportionately affects the poor, rural, households with single parents



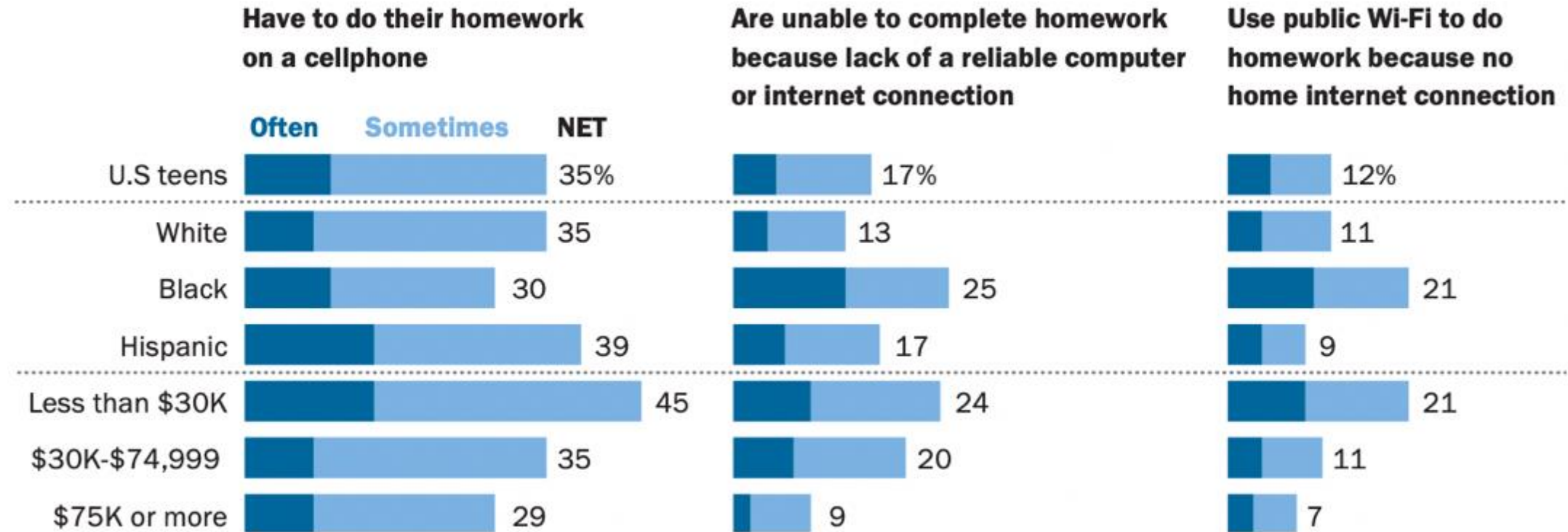
"Work from home and submit your assignments online"

Home:



## Black teens and those from lower-income households are especially likely to be affected by the digital ‘homework gap’

% of U.S. teens, by race and ethnicity or annual family income, who say they *often* or *sometimes* ...



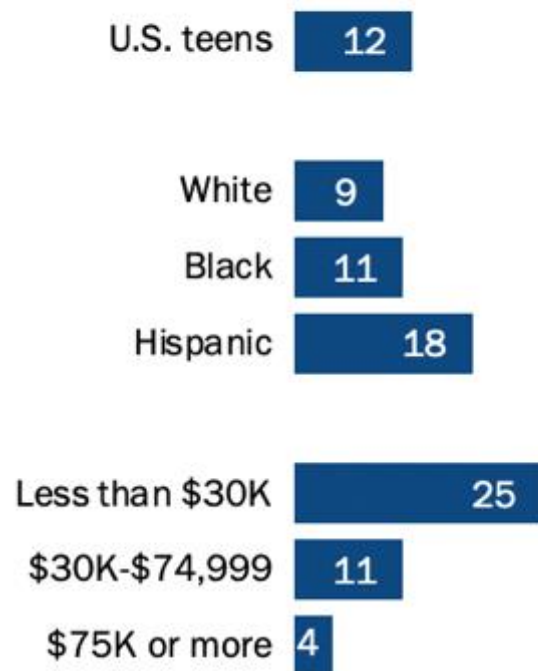
Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics; Hispanics are of any race. Those who gave other responses or who did not give an answer not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 10, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## One-in-four lower-income teens don't have access to a home computer

*% of U.S. teens who say they **do not** have or have access to a desktop/laptop computer at home*

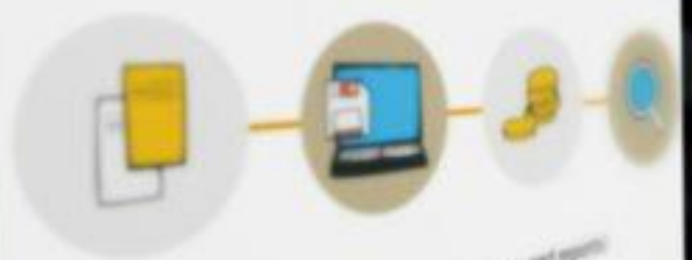


Note: Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics; Hispanics are of any race.  
Source: Survey conducted March 7-April 10, 2018.

Update: Philly schools remove 'parking lot' WiFi option after pushback



## LESSON 1: 4 WAYS TO USE COMPUTER



1. Create documents (e.g. letters, memos, and reports)
2. Store data (e.g. recipes, CDs, contact information)
3. Budgeting & Saving
4. Research (e.g. travel plans, genealogy, product reviews, health information)





The FCC's Rural Development Opportunity Fund will provide up to **\$20B for rural broadband deployment.**

Rural Broadband Auctions Bridging the digital divide—particularly in rural areas where broadband is insufficiently deployed—is the Commission's top priority.



## eRate

- Established by 1996 Telecommunications Act to help schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access.
- Approximately \$4.15B funding level



# Library HotSpot

CHECK OUT THE INTERNET!



PLEASE KEEP BOX FOR RETURNS  
GUARDE LA CAJA PARA DEVOLUCIONES





# **MENG/MARKEY INTRODUCES \$2 BILLION BILL TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE TO STUDENTS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

*Congresswoman's legislation would help close digital divide*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee and Senator Edward J Markey (D-MA), today introduced the Emergency Educational Connections Act of 2020 to ensure that students have internet access during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic emergency.

The legislation would create a special \$2 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to disburse funds to schools and libraries, and Tribal schools and libraries, to purchase Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and internet-connected devices for students and patrons.



## Lifeline

\* Began in 1985 to help increase telephone penetration

\* Now includes mobile and broadband connectivity

\* Approx \$1B annually

- Define and require a meaningful level of Lifeline broadband service;
- Assure an adequate funding mechanism for Lifeline;
- Permit subscribing households to receive Lifeline funding for more than one device by decoupling funding for Lifeline broadband from funding for mobile phones or other devices;
- Require the Federal Communications Commission to provide annual reports on the success of the Lifeline program in increasing broadband subscribership



## GOVERNMENTS

### Principle 1

Ensure everyone can connect to the internet

### Principle 2

Keep all of the internet available, all of the time

### Principle 3

Respect and protect people's fundamental online privacy and data rights

### Principle 4

Make the internet affordable and accessible to everyone

### Principle 5

Respect and protect people's privacy and personal data to build online trust

### Principle 6

Develop technologies that support the best in humanity and challenge the worst

### Principle 7

Be creators and collaborators on the Web

### Principle 8

Build strong communities that respect civil discourse and human dignity

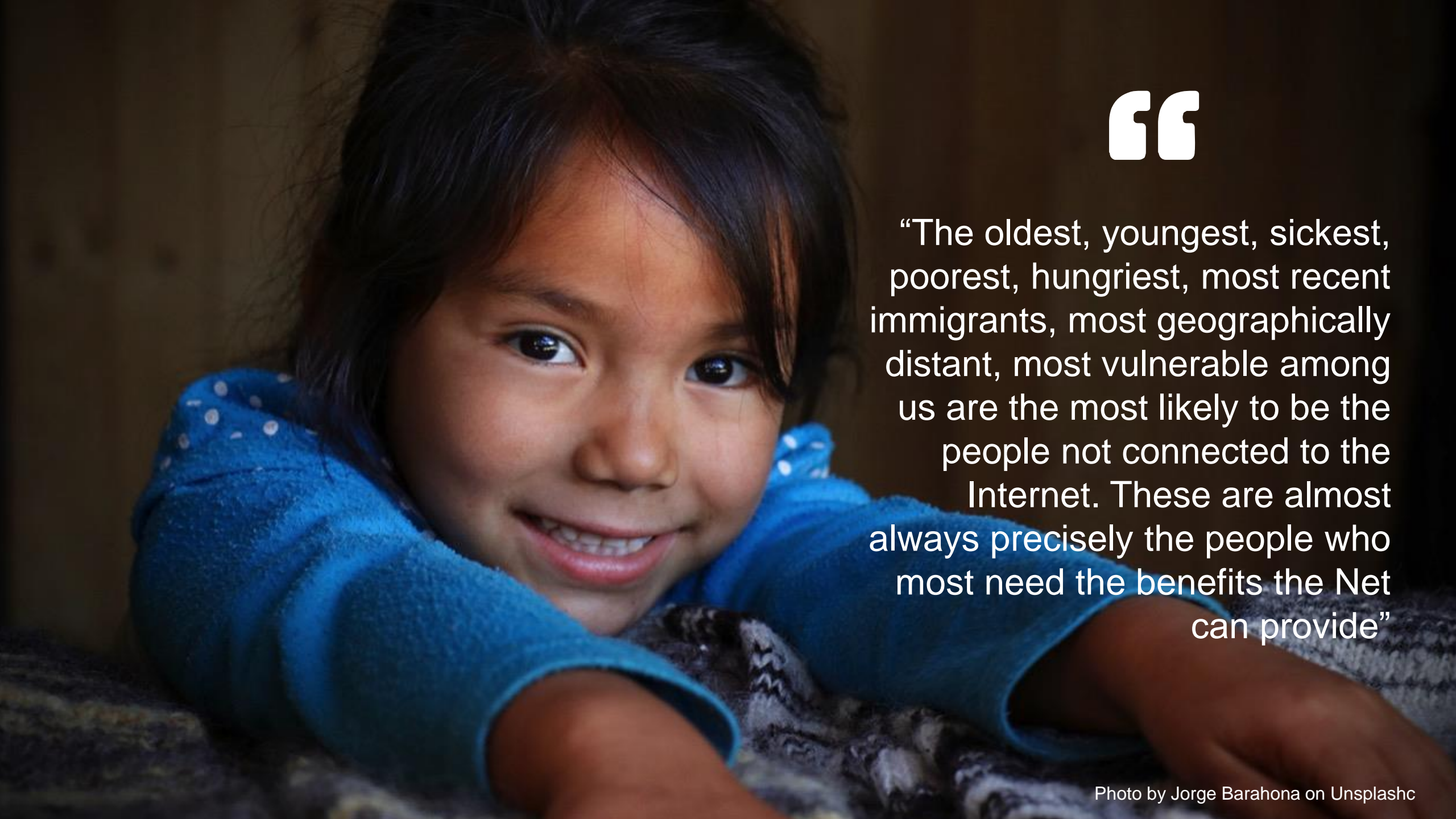
### Principle 9

Fight for the Web

## COMPANIES

## CITIZENS

**Contract for the Web:**  
Tim Berners-Lee launches plan to fix the web



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“The oldest, youngest, sickest, poorest, hungriest, most recent immigrants, most geographically distant, most vulnerable among us are the most likely to be the people not connected to the Internet. These are almost always precisely the people who most need the benefits the Net can provide”

# THANK YOU.

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