



April 3, 2024

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader  
330 CAP  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the New York State Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, NY 12248

**RE: Support for Amending the FY24-25 Budget to Limit Municipal Assistance Program Funding to Unserved and Underserved Locations**

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie,

Please accept this letter in support of the proposed budget amendment to Section 8 of Part MMM of Chapter 58 of 2022, which, if enacted, would limit the allocation of funds from the Municipal Assistance Program (MAP), administered by the New York State ConnectALL Office (CAO), to unserved and underserved locations. The ACLP at New York Law School, which has extensively studied and tracked broadband connectivity issues in the state for two decades, is confident that, by making this small but necessary adjustment, New York would greatly enhance its ability to close its digital divide once and for all.

On January 30, 2024, the ACLP [testified](#) during a Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Economic Development. After praising the state for its longstanding leadership on broadband policy issues, our testimony warned that failure to limit MAP funding to unserved and underserved locations would likely leave thousands of New Yorkers without broadband access. This is an unacceptable outcome, especially when the state has more than \$1 billion on hand for supporting broadband expansion to every corner of the state.

How could this happen? The number of unserved and underserved locations in the state, as well as the associated costs of bringing broadband service to them, is imprecise and continues to shift. Accordingly, the State should precisely target available funds to ensure that broadband is deployed to these locations.

In September 2023, the CAO [projected](#) that \$665 million from the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program (BEAD), an additional \$50 million from the State, and a 25% match from subgrantees will likely be insufficient to bring broadband service to each

