Philanthropy4Technology Summer Newsletter

Completed Projects

Washington Heights Y | New York

We have recently completed a project with the Washinton Heights Y in New York City, providing classroom laptops and television screens to make COVID safe enrichment programs for students a reality. Without your help, budgetary concers would have prevented these young learners from learning anything from music to computer science.

Upcoming Projects

Netter Center | Philadelphia

This summer, we will be partnering with the Netter Center at the University of Pennsylvania to provide scanning equipment, iPads, and hotspots to their afterschool programs. This equipment allows them to accurately record attndance, the basis for the funding of programs that help low-income students in the Philadelphia area. Donations of any size (given though the link on the support us page) are appreciated and will make this project possible, with an eventual goal of $5000.

Updates Newsletters

At the footer of our website, included in this email, is a new option to sign up for monthly newsletters like this one. It is the best was to quickly learn about new developments at P4T. You can also respond to this email to let us know if you're interested. Finally, there is an archive of past newsletters on the "Completed Projects" page.

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Philanthropy4Technology Spring Newsletter

Thank You Letter

Washington Heights Y|
New York City

As the Chief Development and Social Services Officer of the Y, Victoria Neznansky send P4T and everyone who helped fund this project a kind thank you letter reading, in part:

"We want to thank you for doing something extraordinarily special – fundraising and donating money to support technology at free preschool educational programs at the YM&YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood."

Blog Updates

Three New Posts!

Go check out the two new blog articles up on our website. The first is about the benefits of technology in Early Childhood Education, and the second, previewed below, discusses the broadband aspect of Biden's infrastracture plan. The final one speaks about the NFL's iniatives surrounding the digital divide, highlighted at the NFL draft. All three have important impacts in realation to this organization and are worth a read. You can find one below and all of them on the blog section of our website.

Updates Official Non-Profit

Philanthropy4Technology is now registered as a Non-Profit in the state of New York. We are also in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, at which point donations will be tax deductible. More on this in the future.

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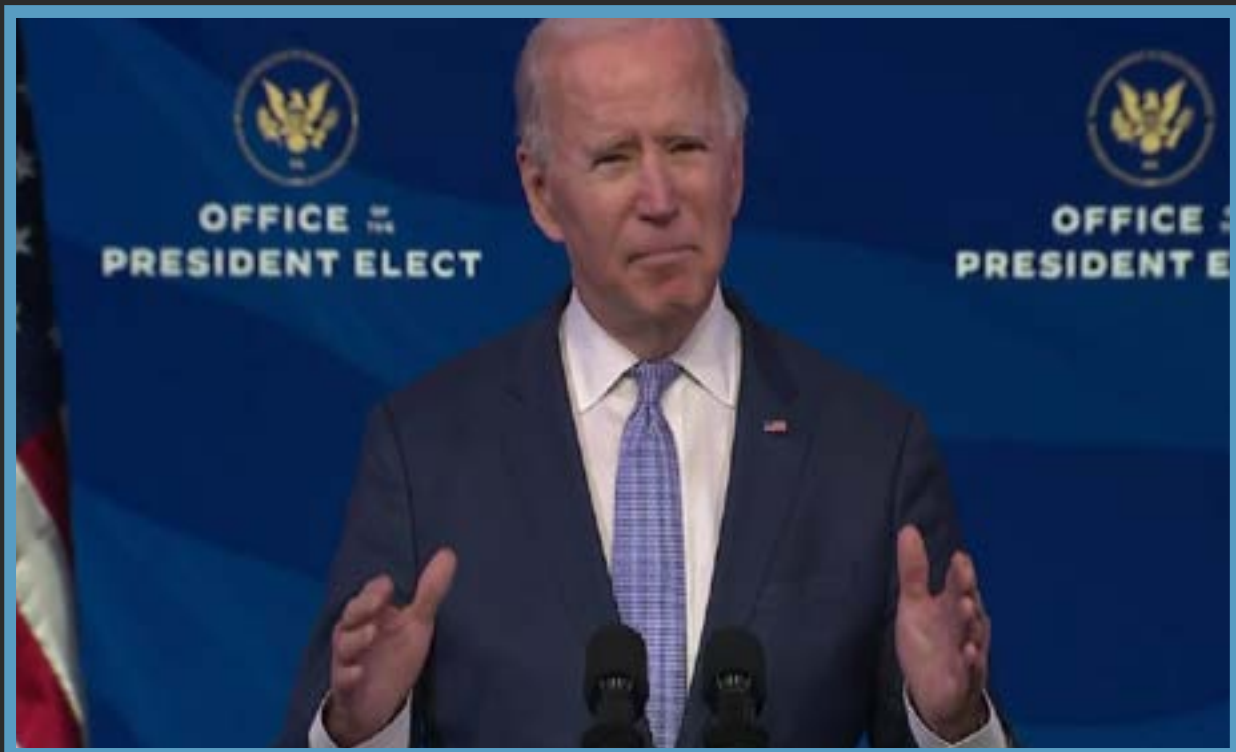**Website:** philanthropy4technology.com
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Biden's Broadband Billions

On March 31, 2021, President Joe Biden announced his $2 trillion infrastructure proposal, labeled the American Jobs Plan. While parts of the bill have been questioned if truly infrastructure or not, broadband is widely recognized as such and has broad-based bipartisan support. In fact, in the Senate Republicans' counter-proposal, $65 billion is still allocated towards broadband, the item with the second-largest price tag.

While the plan directs $100 billion towards broadband, not all of it will go toward building the physical structures needed for internet service. Alternatively, the Biden administration will try to tackle the high internet prices ravaging lower-income communities, using some of the funds to provide subsidies for internet access. While this will clearly help in the short term, subsidies are rarely a long term solution, and the White House fact sheet states that the administration recognizes the problem and is looking for a solution, reading: "Americans pay too much for the internet—much more than people in many other countries—and the President is committed to working with Congress to find a solution to reduce internet prices for all Americans, increase adoption in both rural and urban areas, hold providers accountable, and save taxpayers money." This is not to say that the current plan will not help, and in addition to incremental investment and subsidies, the proposal also includes provisions that would require broadband providers to disclose their pricing, helping consumers budget and plan for what is quickly becoming a necessity of daily life.

There does seem to be many debates that may make Senate negotiations challenging. Broadband providers have typically resisted government intrusion over prices, and during fights over net neutrality, both the telecom industry and certain Republicans have shown concerns around attempts to regulate broadband internet rates.

Furthermore, the Biden administration's fact sheet includes another provision that may see opposition: support for broadband networks run by local governments running broadband instead of private enterprises. There is no doubt that directing the $100 billion towards unserved and underserved parts of the country is positive; however, in those places, it is set to prioritize support for broadband networks owned, operated, or connected with local governments, according to the fact sheet (which also includes wording surrounding evening the playing field with private providers, something many Republicans and certain Democrats fear). As evidence for this potential conflict, Congressional Republicans floated legislation earlier this year to limit municipal networks. In response to these proposals, the White House says that these municipal entities have "less pressure to turn profits and a commitment to serve entire communities."However, whether the white house would go through with supporting these municipal networks is still to be seen, as the Biden administration has historically had close ties to a mix of telecom executives. Longtime Comcast executive David Cohen helped prominently fundraise for Biden on the campaign trail, and one of his former staffers is now a top lobbyist at T-Mobile.

Through all this, advocates for digital connectivity have been lamenting the high U.S. prices and the fact that that there is not enough competition or incentive to bring down prices. Though December's bipartisan pandemic relief law set aside $3.2 billion to create an Emergency Broadband Benefit subsidy fund at the FCC to help struggling consumers with $50 a month for their internet bills, long-term action is still needed.

In summary, while the broadband portion of the Infrastructure bill is a huge step forward for both better internet access and pricing, it may not have come soon enough for the millions of children across the country who have struggled with online schooling due to broadband issues. This, combined with new state tests that require access to broadband technology, may result in students being potentially held back as a consequence. Preventing further deterioration of the educational experience for those who need it most must become the priority, and hopefully the bipartisan support for this critical initiative can help drive positive change in the near term.