



**The OASIS Institute**  
11780 Borman Drive, Suite 400  
St. Louis, Missouri 63146  
314.862.2933 Fax 314.862.2149  
oasisnet.org

August 31, 2015

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room TWA325  
Washington, DC 29554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The OASIS Institute supports the Federal Communications Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on the vital Lifeline universal service program.

In 2001, our Connections program was created to help seniors become digitally literate and well versed in using the internet. Since then, the program has enrolled over 100,000 participants through our nationwide network of OASIS Centers and community based partners.

The internet continues to become a more essential tool for people of all ages and economic backgrounds. The Connections program now helps all adult learners, not just those over 65 to build skills and gain confidence in key areas such as managing Social Security and Medicare benefits, accessing health information and preparing for much needed full or part time work. Class handbooks are available in Spanish and Korean, since learning technology is often like learning a new language for people without regular access to technology in their native language.

A missing piece of building success for nearly 30 percent of Americans is access to the internet in their own home. Just as the Lifeline program evolved when the FCC recognized wireless phones as an allowable use ten year ago, The OASIS Institute supports the expansion of Lifeline to include broadband internet as an allowable use. Helping provide all Americans access affordable, quality broadband is critical to equal opportunity in our modern digital society.

Thank you,

Amy VanDeVelde  
National Program Manager  
The OASIS Institute  
11780 Borman Drive, Suite 400 | St. Louis, MO 63146  
Office Phone: 314-862-2933 ext 272

**The OASIS Institute is a 4-Star [Charity Navigator](#) organization, and a member of the [S&I 100](#) Index of top-performing nonprofits.**