

Keep Us Connected Through Lifeline

Speakers List



Steven Renderos

Los Angeles, CA

“The Internet extends economic, social and political opportunities to those who are able to get access. We must ensure that our society’s most vulnerable are able to benefit from the Internet.”

Steven Renderos is a long-time organizer for migrant and media rights and the Senior Campaign Manager at the Center for Media Justice, home of the Media Action Grassroots Network.



Bridgid Sibka

San Francisco, CA

“Having affordable Internet, as a college education, is the difference between passing or failing my classes.”

Bridgid Sibka is a returning student in the San Francisco Bay Area. Four out of her five classes require the Internet for homework assignments, grades and communication. She is a current Lifeline subscriber and tracks her homework assignments and grades through her cell phone.



Ana Montes

San Francisco, CA

“As our digital society has moved forward, communities like mine have been left behind—this means that we will miss economic, educational, civic and social opportunities.”

Ana Montes is the Organizing Director for The Utility Reform Network (TURN) working on telecommunications, technology, energy and environmental issues for consumers in California. Ana leads the Media Action Grassroots Network (MAGNet) Lifeline team and brings 20 years of expertise on technology issues for low income communities, especially communities of color.



J'Tanya Adams

Charlotte, NC

“The digital divide is real. In Charlotte I see people doing homework at McDonald’s, leaning against a library building to get a connection. You can’t do homework and research like that. You can’t get a job like that. We need affordable broadband.”

J'Tanya Adam grew up in Charlotte and works daily with residents who lack access to the Internet and therefore lack access to economic and social opportunity. She founded the Historic West End Partners, Inc., an economic and cultural development non-profit in Charlotte’s Historic West End and co-founded the 5 Points Community Collaborative.



Lillian Tillman

New Orleans, LA

“There are families like mine, struggling families, who have to choose between paying the high cost of Internet or paying to travel more than ten hours to visit my son in prison. That’s a choice no mother should have to make.”

Lillian Tillman relies almost exclusively on her Lifeline subsidized phone to stay in contact with her son, who is incarcerated ten hours from her home. She is currently pursuing her degree in criminal justice and struggles to pay for Internet at home to complete her studies.



Chivona Roberts

Jackson, MS

“For me, a mother trying to finish my college degree while raising two children, having Internet at home isn’t a luxury, it’s a necessity.”

Chivona Roberts is a 28 year-old mother of two, who applied to the Lifeline program and received a phone, with no charger, that would not get service in her area. She needs the expansion of the Lifeline program in order to go back to college and finish her degree in Public Relations.



Darrell "DJ" Coker

Duff, TN

"I'm from rural East Tennessee, and without Internet access at home completing my college degree in biology is pretty tough. It's even harder for some of the students I tutor whose dreams of college or a good job are deferred without access to affordable Internet."

Darrell "DJ" Coker is a biology student who lives in rural East Tennessee without access to affordable broadband. Darrell is an active member on a task force that is currently engaged in a campaign to bring high-speed fiber optic broadband to rural communities in East Tennessee.



Connie Freeman

Philadelphia, PA

"Lifeline brought the cellphone—a new technology—into my life. That phone kept me connected to healthcare, family, and social action. Modernizing Lifeline to support affordable Internet access would help seniors like me stay healthy and connected to the outside world."

Connie Freeman is a Lifeline subscriber and senior citizen who has lived with a disability since 1992. To access the Internet she has to go the computer lab in her group home. She has worked as a floral designer and an advocate for children's literacy.