Digital Inclusion Week Event

The FCC conducted its first Connecting the Disconnected Forum on October 6, 2021 during Digital Inclusion Week. The forum was hosted by Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and brought together digital inclusion officers and representatives from across the country to foster collaboration and to share ideas and best practices on how to build a more connected future.

The first panel, titled “Communities Supporting Connectivity” focused on addressing issues and possible solutions to the digital divide. The second panel, titled “Emergency Broadband Benefit: Sharing Strategies for Success” highlighted the strategies used in various cities to enroll eligible consumers into the Emergency Broadband Benefit program. You can view a recording of the event on the page linked above.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and this year’s theme is, ‘Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart.’ The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is a proud champion of this online safety and education initiative.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month is co-led by the National Cyber Security Alliance and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. For more information about ways to keep you and your family safe online visit https://staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/ and cisa.gov/ncsam.

More than ever, technology plays a part in almost everything we do. Connected devices are an integral part of how people communicate and access services essential to their well-being. Despite these great advances in technology and the conveniences they provide, recent events have shown us how quickly our lives and businesses can be disrupted when cyber criminals use technology to do harm. Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to shed light on these security vulnerabilities, while offering actionable guidance surrounding behaviors anyone can take to protect themselves and their organizations. Everyone has a responsibility to do their part in securing our interconnected world.

With our partner, the National Cyber Security Alliance, we want to help you, your family, friends, and our community stay safe all year long. The Alliance has great resources to
share with your community. For more information visit the National Cybersecurity Alliance’s [website](https://www.nationalcyberalliance.org) and consider signing up to receive a toolkit of free resources, including simple online safety habits and steps you can take to #BeCyberSmart.

The FCC’s Consumer Guides about [Privacy and Security](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-guides/privacy-security) and [Broadband and Internet](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-guides/broadband-internet) are available to review on our online [Consumer Help Center](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-help-center).

### Information from our Partners

The [Emergency Rental Assistance program](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/housing) is providing more than $46 billion in federal assistance to help renters and landlords cover back rent, utilities, and other housing-related costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In many cases, the money may also help to cover future rent and related fees and services. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released the [Rental Assistance Finder](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/housing), a tool that allows anyone in the country to search for emergency rental assistance programs in their area. This online resource compiles information from both the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the National Low-Income Housing Coalition so renters and landlords can take the first step towards finding and applying for the funds they need to help residents stay in their homes. FCC partners can use [this toolkit](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-guides/toolkits-rental-assistance) to share rental assistance resources with your networks.

Additionally, the CFPB is working closely with partners across the federal government to provide homeowners the resources they need, including information to understand their rights and protections. Along with the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Veterans Affairs, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the CFPB created [consumerfinance.gov/housing](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/housing), which serves as the federal government’s one-stop, go-to resource for up-to-date information on relief options, protections, and key deadlines. CFPB also created a [toolkit](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-guides/toolkits-child-care) to help FCC partners share information for homeowners.

### Ten Digit Dialing For Local Calls

After October 24th, if you still place local calls by only dialing seven-digits, you may need to start entering both the three-digit area code and the seven-digit telephone number to complete the call, even if the area code is the same area code as your own.

There are 82 area codes in 35 states and one U.S. territory that that will be making this transition. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) has a list of the states and area codes that will be affected. You can check [this list](https://www.fcc.gov/consumer-guides/ten-digit-dialing) to find out if your area code is one that will be transitioning.

You can learn more about ten-digit dialing in this FCC consumer guide: https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/ten-digit-dialing