

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Black Churches 4 Digital Equity, in collaboration with Reverend Garland Pierce to Hold an Affordable Connectivity Program Day of Action for Digital Equity in Nashville on Saturday, September 9th.

NASHVILLE, TN – Black Churches 4 Digital Equity (BC4DE), in collaboration with church leader Reverend Garland Pierce of Greater Bethel AME Church, [Metro Digital Inclusion](#), [Nashville Public Library](#), [hubNashville](#), and [CivicTN](#) is excited to announce their kick-off event for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Day of Action in Nashville.

Event Details

Time: Saturday, September 9th from 11:00 am to 5 pm.

Location: Greater Bethel AME Church, 1300 South Street, Nashville, TN 37212

BC4DE's ACP Day of Action in Nashville will take place simultaneously with events in 21 other major cities across 18 states. The month-long program is designed to assist eligible community members in enrolling for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program. Created by the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, the ACP offers a \$30 monthly subsidy to help families in need purchase home internet service, covering the full cost of high-speed service from participating ISPs such as AT&T, Charter Communications, Comcast, T-Mobile, Verizon, and more. Additionally, participants can receive a one-time \$100 subsidy to help purchase a computer or tablet.

The Nashville kick-off event, featuring community leaders, activists, and representatives from Greater Bethel AME, will welcome students back to school while assisting eligible families in signing up for low-cost, reliable internet connectivity. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Alan Davidson will also be in attendance to speak on the importance of the ACP and federal efforts to connect every American to affordable and reliable broadband.

[Less than half](#) of Tennesseans that live in Davidson county have reliable Internet. Out of almost a hundred thousand eligible households in the Nashville area, [only 16% of eligible households](#) have taken advantage of the ACP. With a diverse population with varying needs, ensuring affordable and reliable internet access is crucial to address disparities in education, economic opportunities, and social inclusion. By participating in the ACP Day of Action, Nashville residents and community church leaders are taking proactive steps towards closing the digital divide.

"29% of Black adults nationwide lack a reliable home internet connection. I'm inspired to see Black church leaders in Nashville empowering our community, just as they've done throughout their lifetimes," said Dr. Fallon Wilson, VP of Policy at the Multicultural Media, Telecom, and Internet Council (MMTC) and lead organizer of the BC4DE Coalition. "Access to an affordable, reliable internet connection is the first step in breaking down barriers and unlocking the vast potential within our neighborhoods. With the Affordable Connectivity Program, we are bridging the digital divide and providing a pathway to education, economic prosperity, and social equity."

"In an age where digital access is synonymous with opportunity, we view this initiative not only as a chance to bridge the digital divide but as an embodiment of our shared commitment to our community. We extend a hand of empowerment to every individual, ensuring that they are not just spectators, but active participants in the digital age. This event encapsulates our shared vision of unity, equity, and a future where technology paves the way for boundless possibilities." - Reverend Garland Pierce, Greater Bethel AME Church and BC4DE Fellow.

We invite all members of the Nashville community to attend and participate in this essential effort to promote digital equity.

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Media are invited to attend BC4DE's ACP National Day of Action events. A full list of all participating churches nationwide is available at blackchurches4digitalequity.com/events.

Reverend Garland Pierce can be reached at gfpierce06@gmail.com.

About Black Churches 4 Digital Equity:

BC4DE is a nationwide movement of Black church leaders working to educate members of our community about broadband internet assistance programs, encourage unconnected households to get online, to train and organize leaders as advocates to get their communities connected and advance digital equity. Our national coalition of 25 Black churches and Black church nonprofit organizations collectively touch more than 500,000 people weekly.

BC4DE is organized by the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC), a leading public interest tech organization that has fought for equal access and representation in tech, media, and telecommunications since its founding in 1986. Visit www.mmtconline.org.