

MON, 02/01/2021

Charter Communications Launches New Multiyear, Multibillion-Dollar Initiative To Expand Broadband Availability To Over 1 Million New Customer Locations

**\$5 Billion Investment to Include \$1.2 Billion in Rural Digital Opportunity Funding to Expand Broadband Network to Unserved Communities
Charter to Hire More than 2,000 Employees and Contractors to Support 24-State RDOF Broadband Deployment**

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 1, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Charter Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: CHTR) today announced the launch of a multiyear, multibillion-dollar broadband buildout initiative to deliver gigabit high-speed broadband access to more than 1 million unserved customer locations, as estimated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and awarded to Charter in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I auction. Charter expects to invest approximately \$5 billion to support its buildout initiative - offset by \$1.2 billion in support won from the RDOF auction - expanding Charter's network to lower-density, mostly rural communities that do not have access to broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbps.

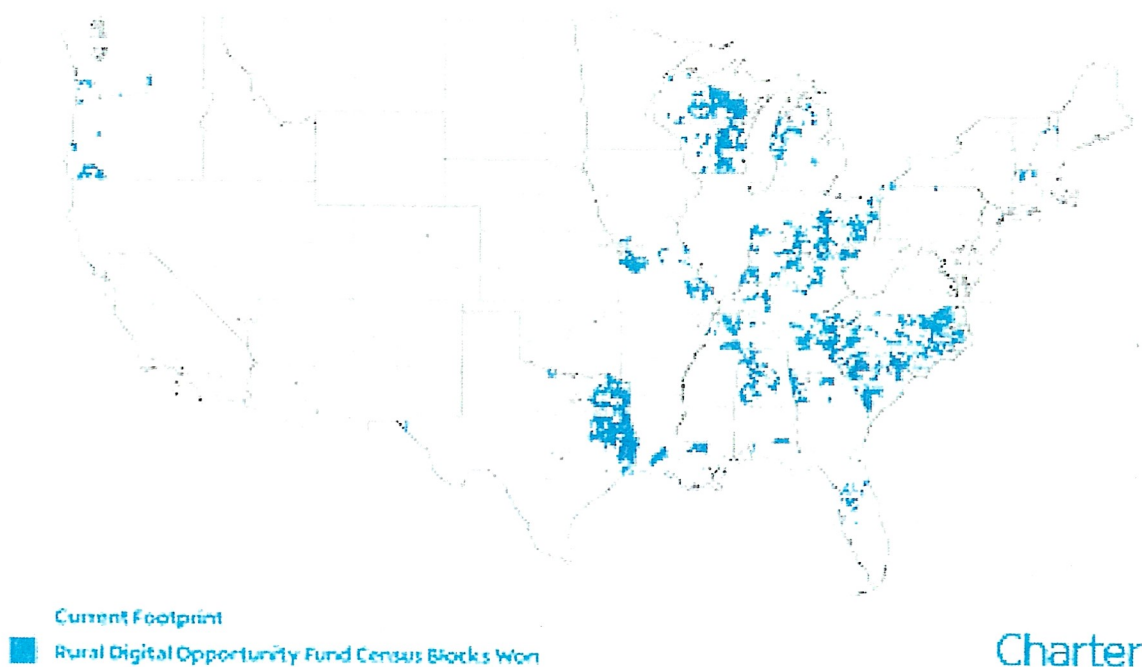
The new initiative is in addition to Charter's existing network expansion plans, including numerous state broadband grant projects, as well as the Company's previously planned privately funded expansions. The network Charter will build in these rural areas will offer 1 Gbps high-speed broadband access to all newly served customer locations with starting speeds of 200 Mbps, enabling consumers to engage in remote learning, work, telemedicine and other applications that require high-bandwidth, low-latency connectivity. These new customer locations also will benefit from Charter's high-value Spectrum pricing and packaging structure, including its Spectrum Mobile™, Spectrum TV and Spectrum Voice offerings. The Company will continue to apply its customer-friendly policies in newly served regions, including no data caps, modem fees or annual contracts, combined with high-quality service provided by U.S.-based, insourced employees.

Today's announced initiative offers Charter an attractive long-term investment opportunity, as it will drive additional customer growth via an expanded footprint in unserved areas. Additionally, the presence of Charter's modern communications network in these rural areas may result in economic development and more homes and businesses for Charter to serve in these communities and additional buildout to adjacent communities, producing greater investment returns over time. Charter looks forward to participating in additional public-private partnerships to expand broadband access.

"The pandemic has further highlighted the need for broadband availability and adoption and Charter is committed to furthering its efforts as part of the comprehensive solution needed to address these challenges," said Tom Rutledge, Chairman and CEO of Charter Communications. "As Americans across the country increasingly rely on broadband to work, learn, access healthcare and stay in touch with family and loved ones, bringing broadband access to more unserved areas should be a priority for all stakeholders. Charter's new multibillion-dollar buildout initiative further highlights the importance of the sophisticated broadband networks that the U.S. cable industry has built over several decades, and the industry's commitment to the local communities it serves. As we continue to help provide more Americans with reliable access to the internet ecosystem, our hope is that federal, state and local authorities, other private companies, pole owners and broadband providers will work together and play a pivotal role in expanding networks to unserved areas."

Preparation for the RDOF Phase I broadband buildout has already begun and will include Charter expanding its existing construction organization in order to focus on deployment of this new fiber optic network. Charter expects to hire more than 2,000 employees and contractors to support the RDOF and future rural buildout initiatives. In addition to Charter's ongoing network expansion, the RDOF program alone will drive a 15% increase in the Company's network mileage coverage while expanding service to more than 1 million previously unserved homes and businesses across 24 states as estimated by the FCC. The states

are: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.



The successful and timely execution of today's announced initiative is dependent on a variety of external factors, including the utility pole permitting and "make-ready" processes. With fewer homes and businesses in these areas, broadband providers need to access multiple poles for every new home served, as opposed to multiple homes per pole in higher-density settings. As a result, pole applications, pole replacement rules and their affiliated issue resolution processes are all factors that can have a significant impact on the length of time it takes to build into these rural areas.

Rutledge added, "The more cooperation we have with the pole owners and utility companies, the faster we can connect these communities with high-speed internet services. We look forward to working with local municipalities, electric cooperatives, and investor-owned utilities to ensure that permits are obtained in a timely, fair and cost-effective fashion."

Charter's operating strategy has succeeded in producing industry-leading broadband growth and the associated construction experience that will facilitate the Company's continued expansion of rural connectivity services and ongoing success for all stakeholders. In the last three years alone, Charter has invested more than \$20 billion in American infrastructure and technology, continually investing in its existing network to provide new services and accommodate higher traffic, and has at the same time

extended its network to reach nearly 2.5 million new homes and businesses, about one-third of which are in rural areas.

About Charter

Charter Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ:CHTR) is a leading broadband connectivity company and cable operator serving more than 31 million customers in 41 states through its Spectrum brand. Over an advanced communications network, the company offers a full range of state-of-the-art residential and business services including Spectrum Internet®, TV, Mobile and Voice.

For small and medium-sized companies, Spectrum Business® delivers the same suite of broadband products and services coupled with special features and applications to enhance productivity, while for larger businesses and government entities, Spectrum Enterprise provides highly customized, fiber-based solutions. Spectrum Reach® delivers tailored advertising and production for the modern media landscape. The company also distributes award-winning news coverage, sports and high-quality original programming to its customers through Spectrum Networks and Spectrum Originals. More information about Charter can be found at corporate.charter.com.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This communication includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, regarding, among other things, our plans, strategies and prospects, both business and financial. Although we believe that our plans, intentions and expectations as reflected in or suggested by these forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or realize these plans, intentions or expectations. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions including, without limitation, the factors described under "Risk Factors" from time to time in our filings with the SEC. Many of the forward-looking statements contained in this communication may be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "should," "planned," "will," "may," "intend," "estimated," "aim," "on track," "target," "opportunity," "tentative," "positioning," "designed," "create," "predict," "project," "initiatives," "seek," "would," "could," "continue," "ongoing," "upside," "increases" and "potential," among others.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement. We are under no duty or obligation to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this communication.

CHARTER POLICY BLOG POST:

Charter Announces New Multi-Year, Multi-Billion Dollar Initiative to Expand Broadband Availability
FINAL as of 02/05/2021 at 5:00 PM EST

Link: <https://policy.charter.com/blog/charter-announces-5-billion-initiative-to-connect-unserved-americans/>

Investing \$5 Billion to Connect Unserved Homes and Businesses to Reliable, High-Speed Broadband

Every American deserves access to reliable, high-speed broadband – and Charter is committed to being part of the comprehensive solution needed to address two important gaps: those who have *no access* to broadband services and those who *have not adopted* broadband service. We recognize the importance of the services we provide to families, businesses, and communities across America, and remain committed to expanding connectivity and bringing more people online.

A recent report from the Federal Communications Commission shows that 14.5 million Americans remain unserved – unable to access high-speed broadband service. About 11 million of them live in rural areas. To help close the broadband access gap, Charter has announced a [\\$5 billion dollar investment](#) to connect more than a million currently-unserved, mostly rural families and small businesses to reliable broadband service with speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second.

“The pandemic has further highlighted the need for broadband availability and adoption and Charter is committed to furthering its efforts as part of the comprehensive solution needed to address these challenges. As Americans across the country increasingly rely on broadband to work, learn, access healthcare and stay in touch with family and loved ones, bringing broadband access to more unserved areas should be a priority for all stakeholders.”

Charter’s new multibillion-dollar buildout initiative further highlights the importance of the sophisticated broadband networks that the U.S. cable industry has built over several decades, and the industry’s commitment to the local communities it serves. As we continue to help provide more Americans with reliable access to the internet ecosystem, our hope is that federal, state and local authorities, other private companies, pole owners and broadband providers will work together and play a pivotal role in expanding networks to unserved areas.”

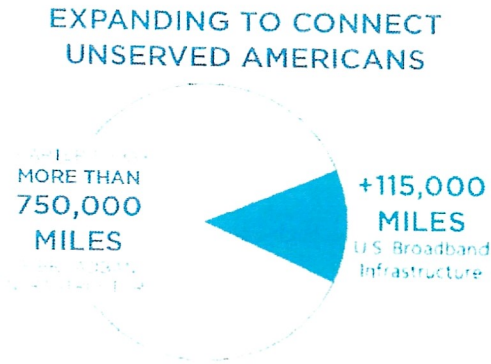
– Tom Rutledge, Chairman and CEO of Charter Communications

Charter expects to invest approximately \$5 billion to support this infrastructure expansion, offset by \$1.2 billion in support won in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction. Thanks to this public-private partnership, Charter will reach many more homes and small businesses than it otherwise would have because of the high costs to reach these areas. This expansion will be in addition to Charter’s ongoing annual investments in infrastructure and technology.

\$4 of **\$5:**
every
PRIVATE CAPITAL
INVESTED BY CHARTER

Charter will also add significant resources to our construction department focused solely on **adding nearly 115,000 miles of new network infrastructure** to our more than 750,000 existing miles. We also plan to hire **more than 2,000 full-time employees and contractors** to support the expansion. Charter employees already earn more than double the federal minimum wage and we’re increasing it so that **every employee earns at least \$20 per hour in 2022.**

Funding rural broadband deployment is one part of solving the deployment gap, but there are also many federal and state legislative and regulatory fixes that can increase the speed and reach of rural network expansions.



Broadband deployments are dependent on a variety of external factors, including when necessary state applications and permits are approved and the speed of the make-ready and utility pole permitting and attachment processes. With fewer homes and businesses in rural areas, broadband providers need to access multiple poles per home, as opposed to multiple homes per pole in higher-density settings. As a result, pole applications, pole replacement rules, pole rental fees and the issues and disputes arising from them are all factors that can have a significant impact on build-out timing and speed to completion. We continue to work with elected officials and regulators at the local, state, and federal levels to reduce the obstacles to

deployment and expedite connectivity for those who lack broadband.

By deploying high-speed broadband service to more people, we are empowering them to thrive in the 21st Century, regardless of whether they live in a small town or an urban center. That drives economic growth and powers opportunity – leading to a stronger, more equitable economy. With this new multi-year, multi-billion-dollar investment, we are excited to do our part to increase opportunity by continuing to help close the broadband access gap.

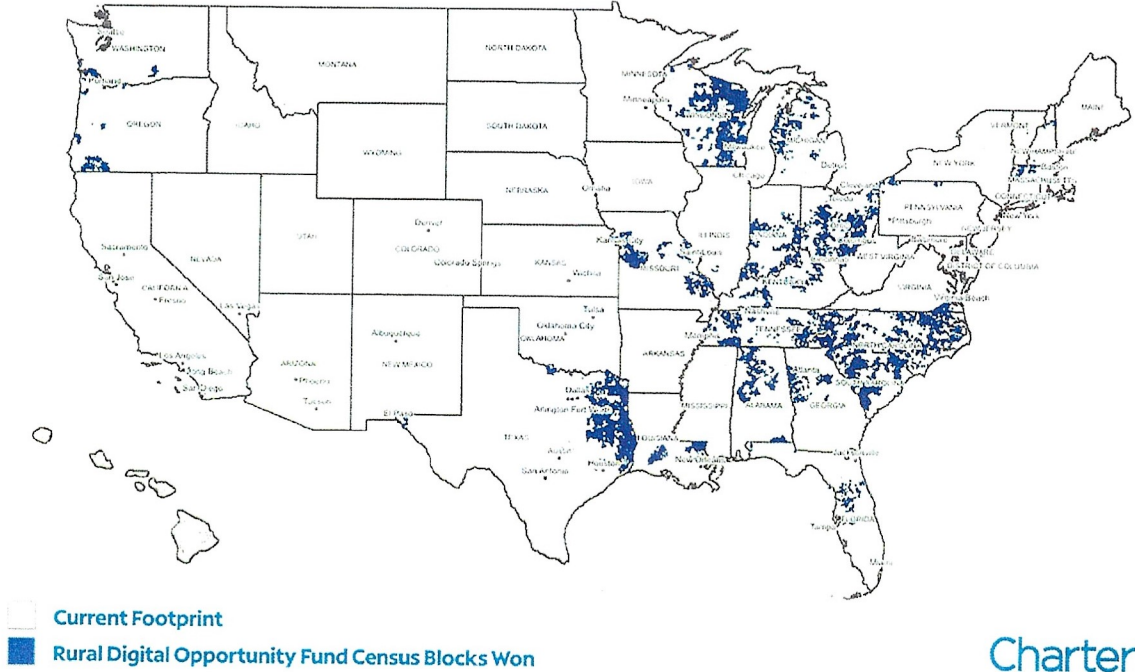
Broadband internet access is more important than ever to education, employment, healthcare, and daily life. Yet tens of millions of households and businesses – especially among vulnerable communities and in rural areas – still lack access or have not adopted broadband internet service. Learn more about Charter's efforts to help every American gain reliable access to the internet ecosystem [here](#).

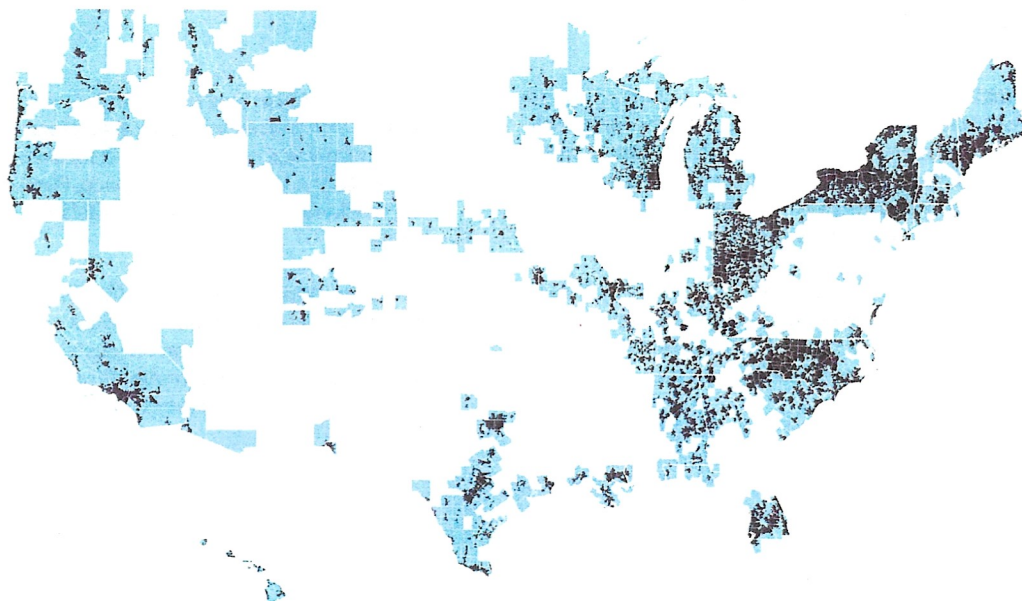
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NATIONALLY

\$5 Billion Investment
\$1.2 Billion RDOF Off Set

1 + Million Locations





▶ EMPOWERING OPPORTUNITY FROM COAST TO COAST

Charter Communications is a leading broadband connectivity company and cable operator serving **more than 31 million customers in 41 states** under the brand name Spectrum. Over an advanced communications network, we offer a full range of state-of-the-art broadband internet, video, voice, and mobile services.

We're driving innovation and growing economies from coast to coast and in communities big and small. From 2016-2020 alone, **Charter invested nearly \$40 billion in infrastructure and technology** – contributing significantly to the US economy.

Every day, we work to deliver on our core business objective: providing superior products with great customer service.



▶ MEETING CUSTOMER NEEDS WITH SUPERIOR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Spectrum Internet: Spectrum delivers minimum speeds of at least 200 Mbps in nearly 75% of our footprint and 100 Mbps across the remainder and offers speeds as high as 1 gigabit across virtually our entire national footprint. Spectrum Internet offers fast, reliable service with no modem fees, no contracts, and no data caps.

Spectrum News Networks: Charter provides 24/7 news, sports, and weather coverage, along with In Focus public affairs programming on over 30 news channels in 12 states and nationally on the Spectrum News App.

Spectrum Mobile: Delivering fast, reliable mobile service to our customers from coast to coast. And now with 5G, Spectrum Mobile offers the next generation of wireless technology for an even better mobile experience for today and tomorrow.

Spectrum Voice: One of the largest voice providers in the nation, offering unlimited local and long-distance calling. Spectrum Voice offers unlimited local and long distance calling to the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Spectrum Video: Spectrum offers free HD, with over 200 channels available, on our all digital network – including Spectrum Guide Narration for customers with visual disabilities and diverse, multicultural programming, such as that featured on Spectrum's Mi Plan Latino.

▶ INVESTING IN OUR WORKFORCE

Charter's insourced, U.S.-based workforce includes more than 96,000 highly-skilled employees, nearly half of whom identify as a person of color and approximately 10% as veterans or military reservists. We offer:

- An **\$18 per hour minimum wage** as of March 15, 2021, with a commitment to raising it to **\$20 per hour in 2022**.
- **Comprehensive company-paid benefits**, including medical, life and disability, education and training, and a generous retirement plan.
- A highly-regarded, **Department of Labor-certified Broadband Field Technician Apprenticeship program**.

▶ ADVANCING ACCESS AND IMPROVING ADOPTION

Charter is committed to being part of the comprehensive solution needed to address broadband service, affordability, and adoption gaps:

Increasing Access to Broadband Service

Over the past three years, we've extended our network to reach an **additional 2.5 million homes and small businesses, about a third in rural areas**.*

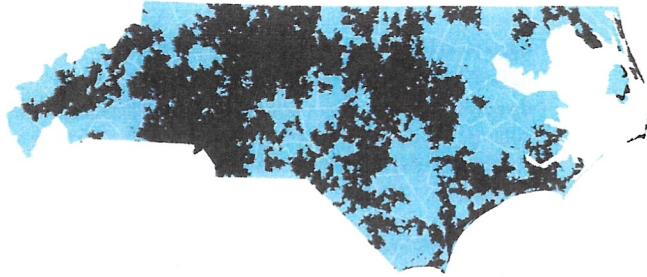
We recently announced a **\$5 billion dollar investment that will provide reliable, high-speed broadband access to an additional 1 million+ currently-unserved, mostly rural homes and small businesses** at speeds of up to a gigabit per second.

Addressing the Affordability Gap

To make broadband **more accessible for low-income learners and seniors**, we offer Spectrum Internet Assist, a high-speed (30/4 Mbps), low-cost broadband service for qualified customers.

Improving Broadband Adoption

To increase adoption and access to technology, we offer philanthropic support to community organizations that **provide computers, digital education classes, and technology labs for thousands across the country**.



- ▶ **2.7 million** customers served
- ▶ **11,215** employees
- ▶ **\$189 million** total tax contribution*
- ▶ **\$770 million** capital investment*

SERVING NORTH CAROLINA

Charter's insourced, U.S.-based workforce includes **11,215 people in North Carolina.**

Our largest employment centers are housed in **Charlotte, Morrisville, Greensboro, and Fayetteville.**

We serve **486 communities** across the state.

Spectrum News 1 North Carolina and the Spectrum News App provide 24/7 news, sports, and weather coverage along with In Focus public affairs programming.

EXPANDING BROADBAND ACCESS

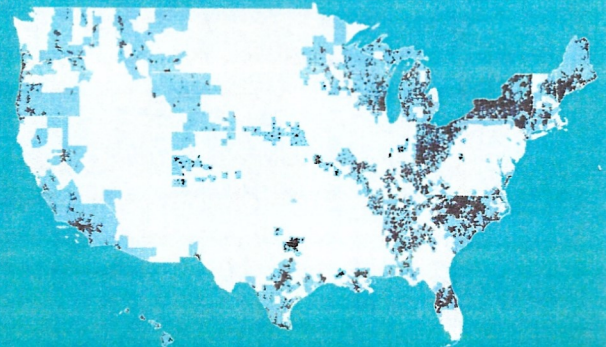
From 2018-2020, Charter extended its network to reach an additional 2.5 million homes and small businesses, about a third in rural areas.**

In 2020 alone, Charter extended its network to reach an additional **114,000 homes and small businesses in North Carolina.**

▶ EMPOWERING OPPORTUNITY FROM COAST TO COAST

Charter Communications is a leading connectivity company and cable operator providing superior broadband, voice, video, and mobile services under the brand name Spectrum to more than **31 million customers across 41 states.**

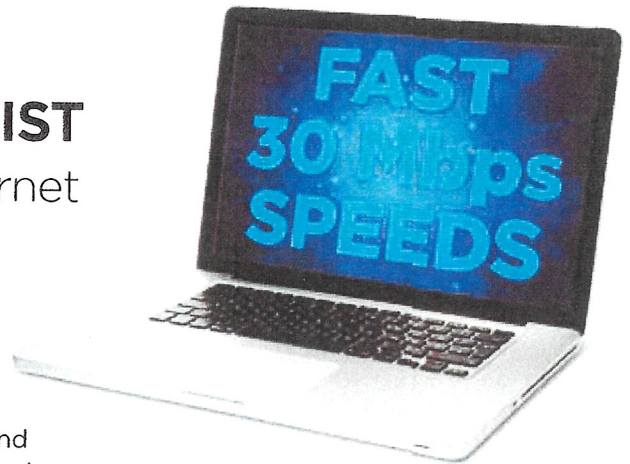
We're driving innovation and growing economies from coast to coast and in communities big and small. From 2016-2020 alone, **Charter invested nearly \$40 billion in infrastructure and technology – contributing significantly to the US economy.**





SPECTRUM INTERNET® ASSIST

Affordable, reliable high-speed Internet access for qualifying households



Spectrum Internet Assist is a low-cost, high-speed broadband service that provides qualifying households with Internet service for **\$17.99 per month**.

To qualify for Spectrum Internet Assist, a member of the household must be a recipient of one of the following programs:

- The National School Lunch Program (NSLP); free or reduced-cost lunch
- The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) of the NSLP
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) (age 65 and over only)

Programs that do not qualify for Spectrum Internet Assist: Social Security Disability (SSD), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), and Social Security Retirement and Survivor Benefits are different from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and do NOT meet eligibility requirements.

If you believe you may qualify, visit SpectrumInternetAssist.com.

- Enter in your 5-digit ZIP code to see if Spectrum Internet Assist is available in your area.
- If available, you will receive direction to call 1-844-525-1574 to start the qualification process.
- If Spectrum Internet Assist is not available in your area, you will receive a coming-soon message and be asked to check back for updates.

GET CONNECTED WITH HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR **\$17.99/MO**

Spectrum Internet Assist gives your household a reliable, blazing-fast connection to the world of information, education, entertainment and services that are available online.

With Spectrum Internet Assist, you'll enjoy:

- 30 Mbps of Internet speed with NO data caps
- **FREE** Internet modem
- No contracts, ever
- Add fast in-home WiFi for \$5 more a month

To get started, visit:
SpectrumInternetAssist.com

SPECTRUM INTERNET ASSIST. Limited time offer, subject to change; not transferable. Availability of offer based on eligibility and service address that has been pre-qualified. Offer valid to qualified residential customers who (i) have not subscribed to Charter Communications' Internet services within 30 days prior to requesting services under this offer, (ii) have no outstanding debt for any of Charter Communications' services that was incurred within 1 year prior to requesting services under this offer and (iii) have no outstanding debt to Charter Communications that was incurred for services provided under this offer and that are subject to Charter Communications' ordinary debt collection procedures. Equipment, taxes, fees and surcharges may be extra and subject to change during and after the term; installation and additional services are extra. Available Internet speeds may vary by address. Download speeds are up to 30 Mbps and upload speeds are up to 4 Mbps. WiFi. Equipment, activation and installation fees may apply. Services subject to all applicable service terms and conditions, subject to change. Services not available in all areas. Restrictions apply. © 2019 Charter Communications.