

**National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO)  
Resolution**

**Supporting Broadband Deployment, Adoption and Usage in  
Underserved and Unserved Areas**

**WHEREAS**, broadband and digital applications provide solutions to our nation's economic and social challenges, like healthcare and energy efficiency, and will provide disproportionately disadvantaged communities access to educational and other vital societal opportunities; *and*

**WHEREAS**, the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) applauds the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which provides funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as mapping, and creates additional demand for broadband technologies: computer labs for schools, health care IT and virtual medical records, and smart power grids, all critical for strengthening the American economy; *and*

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials have implemented policies to ensure the rapid deployment of broadband technologies and infrastructure for the benefit of our local communities and our economy, *and*

**WHEREAS**, each local community has its own distinct communications needs and state and local elected officials are best positioned to identify those needs and manage broadband stimulus spending; *and*

**WHEREAS**, NBC-LEO recognizes that expanding access to advanced telecommunications technologies and services in underserved and unserved areas will spark the creation of new services, new innovations, and new applications that will become more affordable to African American communities; *and*

**WHEREAS**, NBC-LEO seeks to ensure that local communities are prepared to meet the technological challenges, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, and physical ability; *and*

**WHEREAS**, NBC-LEO believes no communities should suffer a disparate impact from lack of access to, or productive use of, technological innovation; *and*

**WHEREAS**, NBC-LEO supports local, state, and federal government developing and implementing public-private broadband deployment partnerships which ensure underserved and unserved communities have access to affordable broadband technologies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NBC-LEO supports Government aided economic development in underserved and unserved communities coupled with public private partnerships to encourage usage of culturally relevant content as well as ensure that training and service delivery be provided in a manner that empowers African American communities in the digital economy; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NBC-LEO cautions against any corporate or government policies that increase costs, impede deployment, slow use of the stimulus funds, discourage adoption and usage, limit consumer access and reduce affordability of broadband technologies to local communities; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the critical need with stimulus funds is to ensure rapid and effective use of the funds to create jobs and reverse the economic slowdown; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that as state and local governments and entities help guide deployment, transparent processes and firm management of the stimulus funding are important to eliminating potential waste, and to ensuring timely deployment and delivery of broadband; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NBC-LEO believes the best way to gain the benefits of the stimulus funding is to ensure that broadband gets to unserved areas and mapping the current availability of broadband is critical to ensuring that money is used wisely and that funds and deployment are focused those who are truly unserved – places where no broadband connections exist; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NBC-LEO educate its members and avail themselves of opportunities to educate local communities on the importance of adoption and usage of broadband technologies in African American communities as well as the economically disadvantaged; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NBC-LEO applauds and supports programs and initiatives for a focus on demand side advanced communications programs and policies that should be implemented to stimulate greater access, higher demand and more efficient use of advanced communications services and products for the purpose of improving the quality of life for local communities; *and*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NBC-LEO supports a national Call To Action that will bring together local, state and national government leaders, business and the nonprofit sector to explore and define viable policies to expand technology adoption and education through the development of meaningful and accessible content and content delivery to African Americans; *and*

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NBC-LEO send a copy of this resolution to the ITC (Information Technology and Communications) steering committee for adoption.