

NAHP Update

Program Helps Residents Pay For Internet Service

BY JENNIFER JONES

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As we all learned during the world-wide pandemic, having a computer, laptop, or some sort of smart device is no longer a luxury. It is necessary to do school work, seek employment and access health or social services, to name a few. However, for people living in affordable housing, it is an expense that can be low on the priority list, if it makes the list at all.

According to the Pew Research Center, "On one hand, Americans—both broadband users and those who do not have broadband—are increasingly likely to view home broadband as a key tool for accessing information that is important to their lives. But at the same time, the monthly cost of broadband service is now cited by a plurality of non-adopters as the most important reason for not having a home broadband subscription"

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Biden administration worked with Congress to create the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#)



(ACP)—the largest high-speed internet affordability program in the nation's history—which allows tens of millions of American households to reduce their internet service costs by up to \$30 per month or \$75 per month on tribal lands.

According to the White House, experts estimate that 48 million households—or nearly 40% of households in the country—qualify for the ACP either because the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal

Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Received a federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:

- The National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including

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NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (NAHMA)—Protecting the Interests of Affordable Housing Property Managers and Owners



through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as WIC
- Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
- or [Lifeline](#);

■ Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on [qualifying tribal lands](#):

■ Bureau of Indian Affairs



AVAILABLE RESOURCES

[fcc.gov/ACP](#)

[Mini Guide to the Affordable Connectivity Program for HUD-Assisted Communities](#)

[GetInternet.gov](#)

General Assistance

- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, also known as Tribal TANF
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
- Tribal Head Start (income based)

In addition, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that for the more than 4 million HUD-assisted families receiving benefits from the ACP, those benefits do not count as income for determining family rent or impact their eligibility for HUD assistance. Households receiving HUD rental assistance qualify for ACP subsidies, but families need to enroll in the program to receive the benefit.

“The pandemic has further highlighted a known divide in access to broadband and its importance in daily life,” said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge in a press release.

“We are deeply committed to ensuring that communities have the necessary resources to thrive, especially when it comes to accessing reliable and affordable broadband coverage. With today’s action, we are making it clear that eligible HUD households can get the financial help they need to equitably access broadband without losing access to critical HUD programs.”

The \$14 billion Affordable Connectivity Program discounts up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for qualifying households on qualifying tribal lands. The benefit also provides up to a \$100 per household discount toward a one-time purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase through a participating broadband provider.

Affordable Connectivity Program enrollment opened on Dec. 31, 2021. Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or by (1) going to [ACPBenefit.org](#) to submit an online application or print a mail-in application and (2) contacting their preferred [participating broadband provider](#) and selecting a plan. Additional information about the Affordable Connectivity Program is available at [www.fcc.gov/ACP](#) or by calling 877-384-2575 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. ET. **NU**

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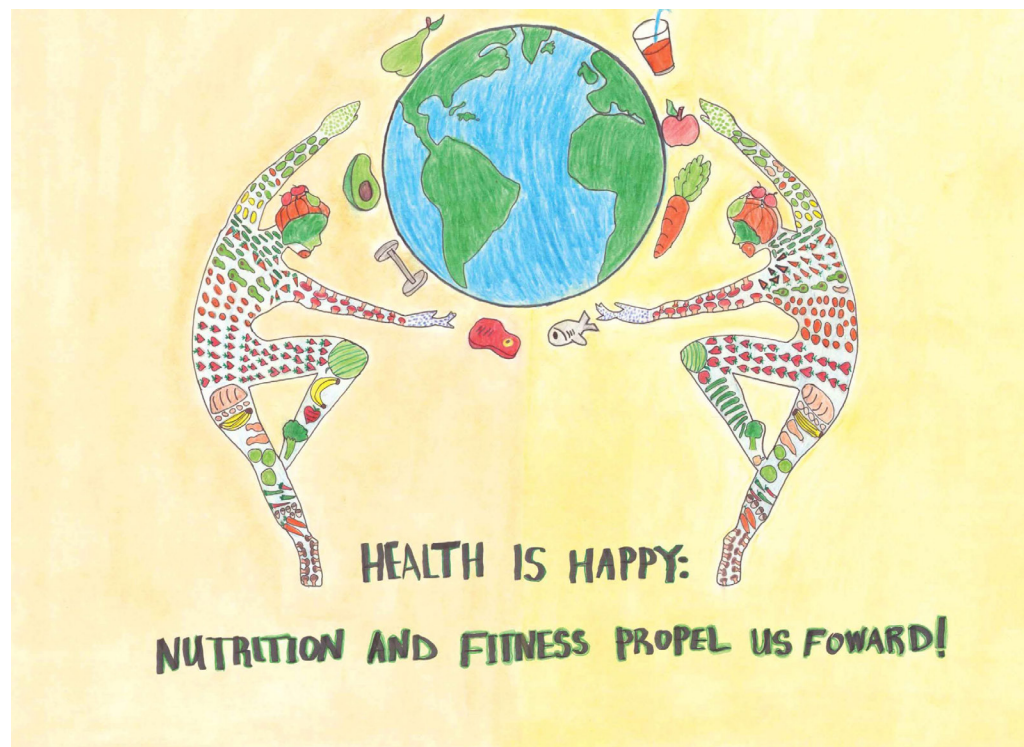
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Residents Illustrate Healthy Ways To Be Happy

The judges have made their decisions. The winners have been notified.

And the 2023 NAHMA Drug-Free Kids Calendars have begun the production process. The calendars make great holiday gifts for your properties, community event giveaways and colleagues. Order deliveries will begin in September. Avoid shipping delays by preordering calendars today using the downloadable [order form](#) found in the Online Store at www.nahma.org.

Esme Fordjour, a ninth grader from Worcester, Mass., has been named the grand prizewinner in NAHMA's annual AHMA Drug-Free Kids poster and art contest. The talented artist's creation will appear on the cover of NAHMA's 2023 calendar. Esme, 14, also receives an all-expenses-paid



who live in a community of a NAHMA or a local AHMA member company, as well as residents with special needs who live in a permanent supportive housing community

into the poster contest. The subtheme for this year is Healthy Is Happy: Nutrition and Fitness Propel Us Forward.

Typically, the contest

Grand prizewinner, Esme Fordjour's art will be featured on the cover.

media. The AHMA winners are then sent to NAHMA for consideration in the national contest.

The grade categories for children are based on the grade the contestants have completed by June 2022: kindergarten-first grade, second-third grade, fourth-sixth grade, seventh-ninth grade, and 10th-12th grade. Only students are eligible for the grand prize.

Regardless of the entry category, each national winner of the NAHMA contest receives a \$1,000 educational scholarship from the NAHMA Educational Foundation. All winners are

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THE CALENDARS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS for your properties, community event giveaways and colleagues. Order deliveries will begin in September. Avoid shipping delays by preordering calendars today

trip to Washington, D.C., for a future NAHMA Biannual Top Issues in Affordable Housing conference, as well as a scholarship of \$2,500 from the NAHMA Educational Foundation.

The poster contest is open to children and senior residents 55 years or older

or Section 811 community of a NAHMA or a local AHMA member company.

The underlying message for the annual contest is always a drug-free theme. Still, the association wanted to open the door for more avenues of expression, so a subtheme is incorporated

draws hundreds of participants nationwide. The artwork is divided into categories. For each grade category for children and the elderly and special needs levels, local AHMAs select up to three winning posters, which can consist of photographs, websites, computer art, or other

also featured in the 2023 calendar.

Furthermore, participants in the annual art contests held by the local AHMAs are eligible to be selected as Regional AHMA Art Contest Honorable Mentions. Those chosen for this distinction are featured in a special section of the NAHMA 2023 Drug-Free Kids calendar and receive a \$100 scholarship check.

The original grand prize-winning artwork will be sold in connection with the Educational Foundation's in-person gala, Oct. 27, with the proceeds supporting the foundation's scholarship program.

The calendar cost is \$5.50, which is a Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture allowable project expense.

The sidebar at left lists this year's national program winners, with their ages at time of submission, grade completed in June 2022, contest category, the community where they live, the management company, and name of the AHMA that submitted their artwork. **NU**

GRAND PRIZEWINNER

Esme Fordjour, 14; Ninth grade; Stratton Hill Park Apartments, Worcester, Mass.; Beacon Communities LLC; NEAHMA

NATIONAL WINNERS

Jeremiah Berger, 7; Second grade; Plaza Manor Court, Jacksonville, N.C.; Westminster Company; SAHMA

Bill Devlin, 78; Seniors & residents with special needs; The Ledges, Ashland, Mass.; Peabody Properties; NEAHMA

Anthony Keshishyan, 16; 11th grade; The Gardens on Garfield, Glendale, Calif.; Thomas Safran & Associates; AHMA-PSW

Ali Kramen, 56; Seniors & residents with special needs; Council Groves Apartments, Missoula, Mont.; Tamarack Property Management; Rocky Mountain Heartland AHMA

Ari'bella Landry, 8; First grade; Davis Commons, Brockton, Mass.; First Realty Management; NEAHMA

Ezra Lopez, 6; Kindergarten; Council Groves Apartments, Missoula, Mont.; Tamarack Property Management; Rocky Mountain Heartland AHMA

Ana A. Maza, 54; Seniors & residents with special needs; Lakeside Towers Apartments, Miami, Fla.; Royal American Management; SAHMA

Angie Montero, 18; 12th grade; Lakeside Towers Apartments, Miami, Fla.; Royal American Management; SAHMA

Alina Oganezova, 12; Sixth grade; Strathern Court, Sun Valley, Calif.; Thomas Safran & Associates; AHMA-PSW

Skye Roberson, 9; Sixth grade; Stratton Hill Park Apartments, Worcester, Mass.; Beacon Communities LLC; NEAHMA

Diego Humberto Salcido, 13; Eighth grade; Strathern Park, Sun Valley, Calif.; Thomas Safran & Associates; AHMA-PSW

Joshua Silva, 13; Eighth grade; Kingsville Lulac Manor, Kingsville, Texas; Prospera Housing Community Services; SWAHMA

Lisa Marie Veliz Santiago, 17; 10th grade; Residencial El Recreo, San German, Puerto Rico; J.A. Machuca & Associate Inc.; SAHMA

HONORABLE MENTIONS

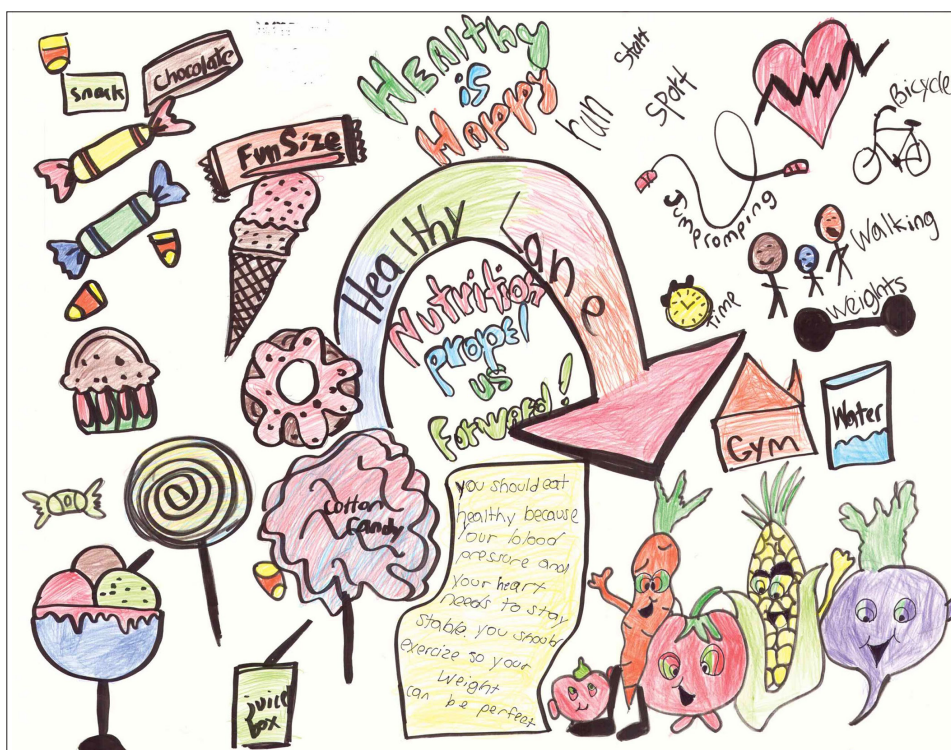
Deborah Holt, 72; Seniors & residents with special needs; Cornerstone Village Apartments, Pittsburgh, Pa.; McCormack Baron Management; PAHMA

Ranbir Kaur, 69; Seniors & residents with special needs; Los Robles Apartments, Union City, Calif.; EAH Inc.; AHMA-NCH

Noah Merritt, 13; Seventh grade; Rowan Towers, Trenton, N.J.; The Michaels Organization; JAHMA

Ariitha Peaks, 53; Seniors & residents with special needs; Michigan Avenue School, Columbus, Ohio; CPO Management; MAHMA

Dara Vargas Vazquez, 18; 12th grade; Escuela Superior Urbana en Maricao, Maricao, Puerto Rico; J.A. Machuca & Associates Inc.; SAHMA



National winner, second grader
Jeremiah Berger's art is featured at right.

Invest in Yourself

You can never go wrong when investing in yourself, and NAHMA can help you achieve your professional goals. NAHMA offers several professional education and certification programs.

*National Accredited Housing Maintenance Technician (NAHMT)

*National Accredited Housing Maintenance Supervisor (NAHMS)

*National Affordable Housing Professional (NAHP)

*National Affordable Housing Professional-Executive (NAHP-e)

*Specialist in Housing Credit Management (SHCM)

*Blended Compliance Designation (BCD)

*Certified Professional of Occupancy (CPO)

*Credential for Green Property Management (CGPM)

*Fair Housing Act (FHC)



For more information, visit www.NAHMA.org and click on Education.



NAHMA Welcomes Leslie O'Donnell

By Jennifer Jones

NAME: Leslie O'Donnell

COMPANY: National Affordable Housing Management Association

POSITION: Manager of Education and Credentialing Programs

Leslie O'Donnell joined the NAHMA staff at the end of August as the manager of education and credentialing programs. She comes to NAHMA with 20 years of experience in the association sector. After eight years with NAHMA, Natasha Patterson moved on to another opportunity in July.

O'Donnell's background

She also worked in the nonprofit arena as the project director of conferences and events for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, managing their annual national conference. O'Donnell also served as the Colorado regional director at the Associated Builders & Contractors. While there, she managed the state chapters, volunteer committees and

As the manager of education and credentialing programs, O'Donnell will coordinate courses and materials with the AHMAs and affiliates, process test results and applications, and work with the Certification Review Board, and Education & Training committees, among other duties.

"We're very excited to have Leslie join us at NAHMA," said Executive Director Kris Cook, CAE. "She has a lengthy career of superior customer service in association management, as well as contagious energy and enthusiasm for her work, which should result in positive and constructive relationships with NAHMA and AHMA members and staff who participate in our education and credentialing programs."

O'Donnell can be reached by emailing lodonnell@nahma.org or calling 703-683-8630, ext. 117. **NU**

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includes membership and event and conference management. She worked for the Colorado Society of CPAs for over 16 years, managing the state chapter committees, educational and networking meetings, membership retention and recruitment, student outreach, and speaking presentations.

leadership councils, scholarship programs, event management, and membership outreach and recruitment.

O'Donnell recently moved back to the Washington metro area, where she grew up, to be closer to her family and continue her appreciation for the association profession.