



# EVERY WOMAN SELF-SUSTAINING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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# YOU AND THE INTERNET



# Self-Reflection



WHEN DID YOU BEGIN USING  
A CELL PHONE?



WHEN DID YOU GET YOUR  
VERY OWN FIRST  
COMPUTER?

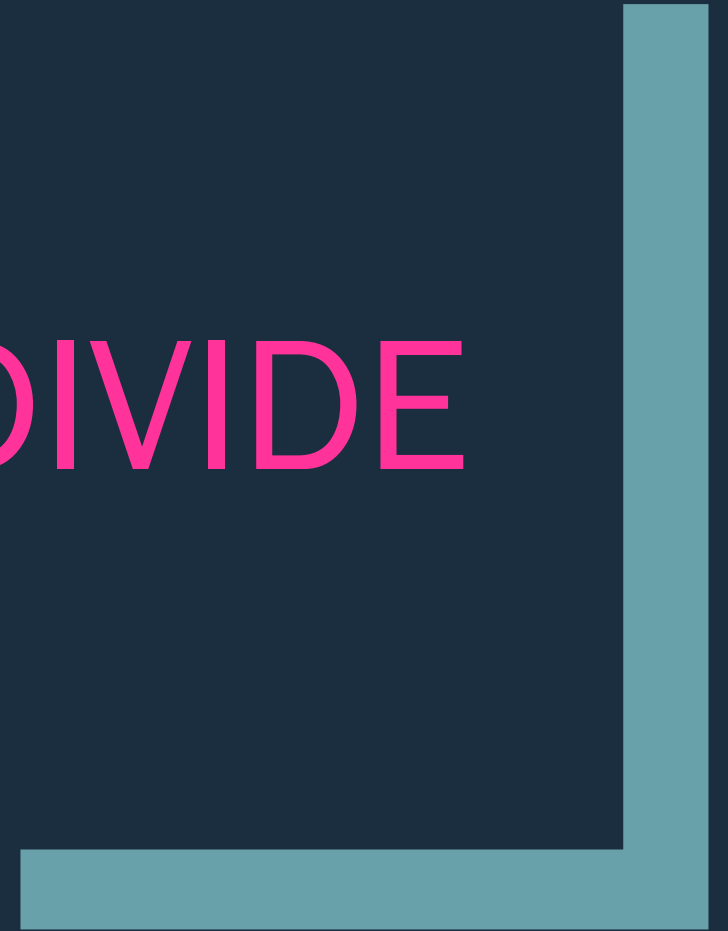


WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO  
PERFORM YOUR CURRENT  
JOB WITHOUT A COMPUTER  
AND INTERNET ACCESS?

# How does a self-sustaining woman use the Internet?

- Entrepreneur
- Work / Professional
- Student / prospective student
- Connect with community
- Procure health care
- Civic engagement
- Find and share information
- Entertainment
- Daily tasks

# DIGITAL DIVIDE



# Internet Access Disparity in the United States

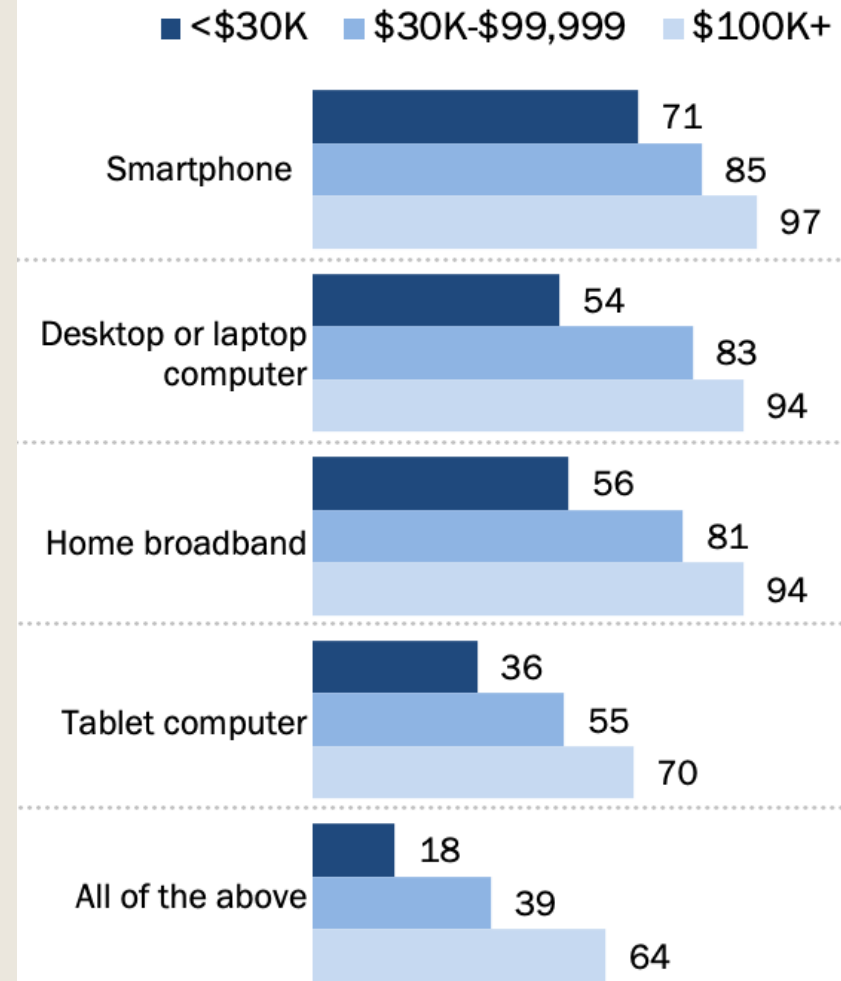
- 94.4% of people in the United States have broadband service at 25/3 Mbps.
- 1.5 % of people in urban areas do not have access
- 22.3% of people in rural areas do not have access
- 27.7% of people in Tribal lands do not have access

*2020 Broadband Deployment Report, FCC (April 2020)*

# Internet Access by Income

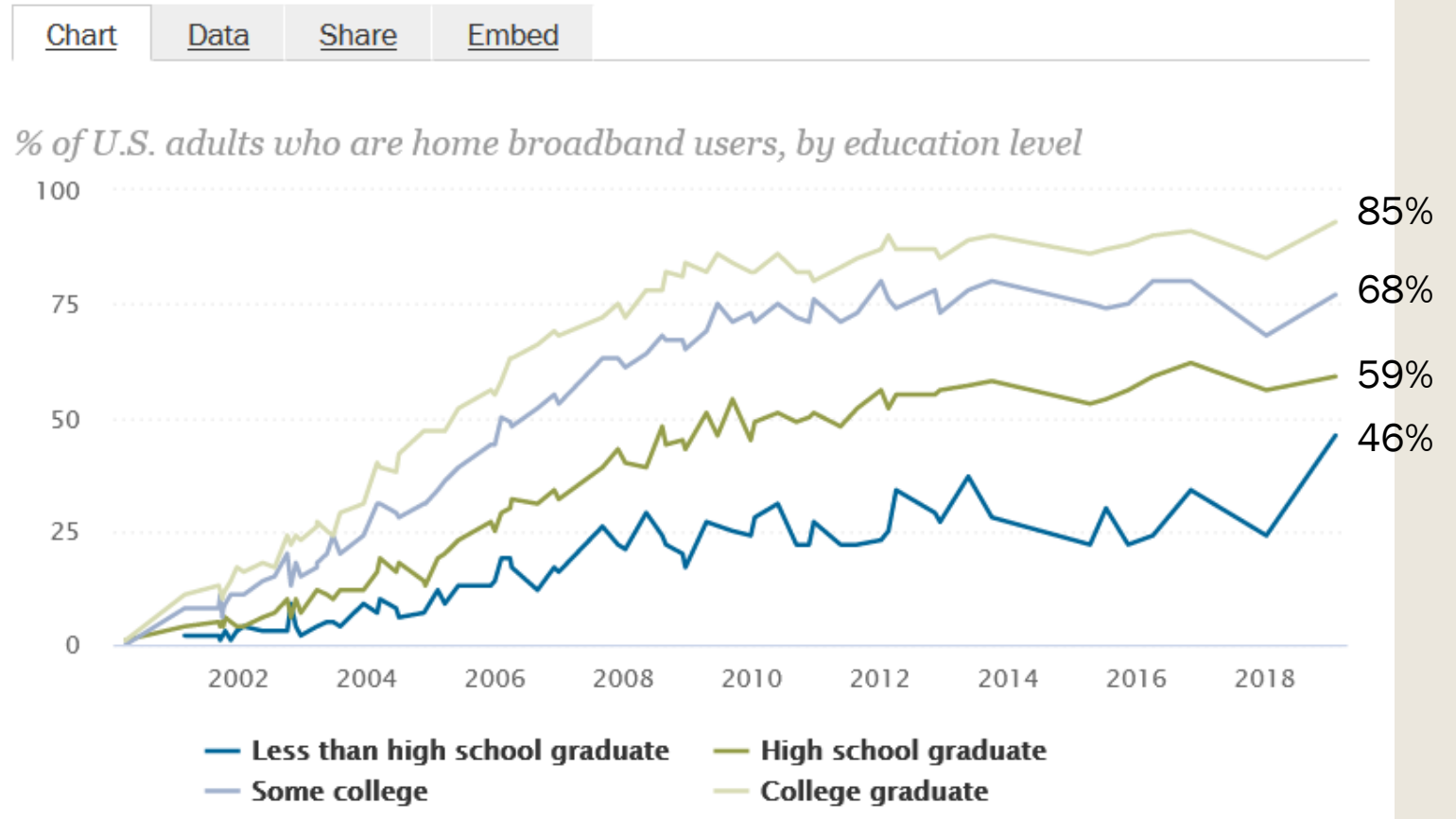
## Lower-income Americans have lower levels of technology adoption

*% of U.S. adults who say they have the following ...*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 8-Feb. 7, 2019.

# Internet Access by Education Level



Source: PEW Research Center



# Internet Access by Race & Ethnicity

- 79% of **White** people have broadband at home
- 66% of **Black** people have broadband at home
- 47% of **Latinos** have broadband at home

*PEW Research Center, 2019*

## **Native Americans**

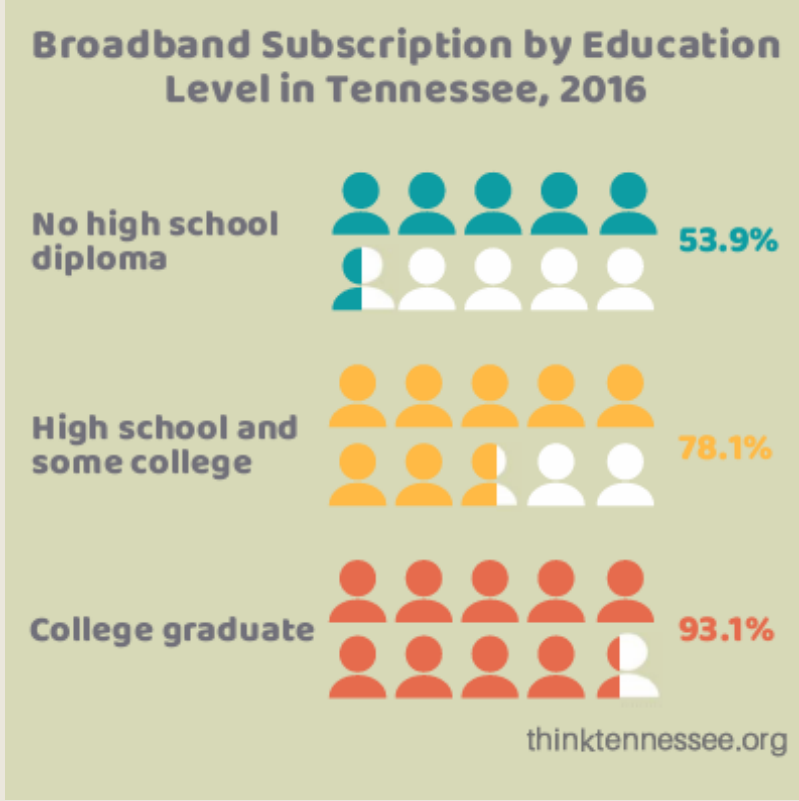
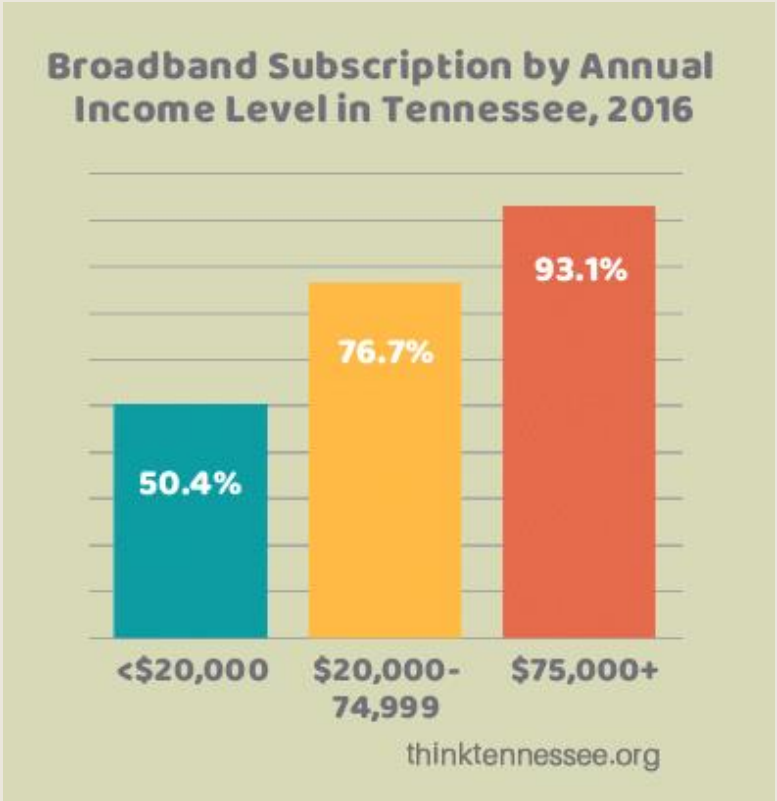
- 38% used smartphone to access to the Internet
- 69% had phone connectivity at home all the time
- Top 3 locations to access the Internet:
  - 31% wherever they get cell reception
  - 27% public WiFi while patronizing a business
  - 15% while at a friend or relative's house

*Tribal Technology Assessment, American Indian Policy Institute, ASU (2019)*

# Internet Access in Tennessee

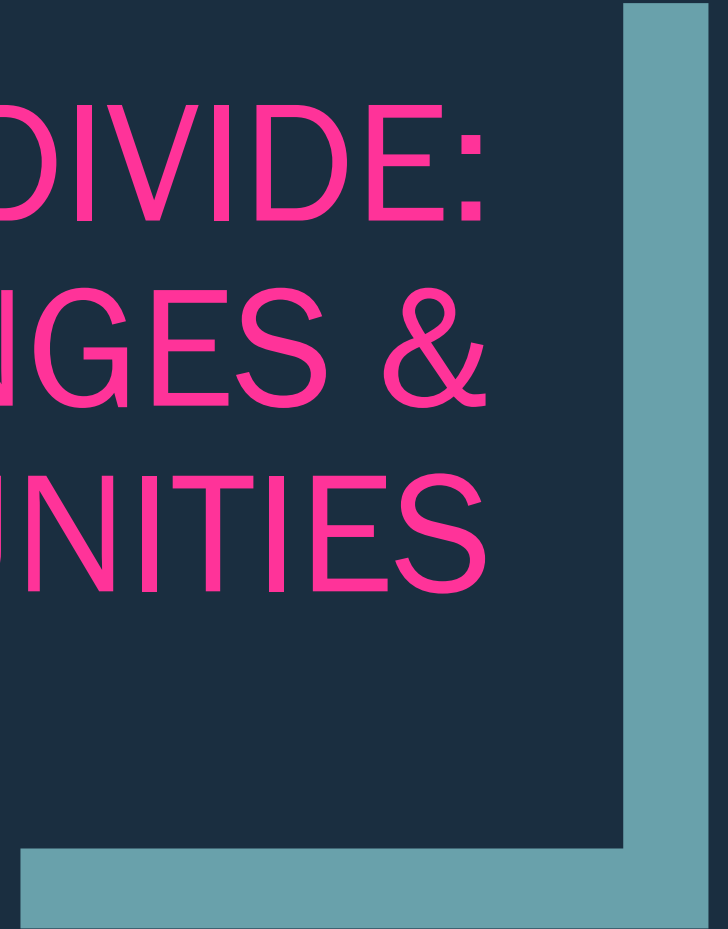
- 82% – 92% of Tennesseans have broadband access at 25/3 Mbps
- 1 in 4 rural families live in areas without access to broadband
- 1.7% of urban Tennesseans lack the service
- 49.6% of the poorest Tennesseans (<\$20,000 annual income) do not have a broadband subscription

*Sources: ThinkTennessee, BroadbandNow.com*



# Internet Access in Tennessee by Income and Education

# CLOSING THE DIVIDE: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES





INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS PRIORITIZE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT TO AREAS WITH HIGHER POPULATION DENSITY AND PURCHASING POWER, THUS REMOTE, HARD-TO-REACH, RURAL, AND AREAS WITH SMALL POPULATIONS ARE OFTEN LEFT UNSERVED.

# FCC: Universal Service Fund



**\$2.25 B**

## **LIFELINE PROGRAM**

Reduced rates for telecom and broadband services to eligible low-income consumers



**\$4.5 B**

## **HIGH COST PROGRAM**

Reduced rates for telecom and broadband services in eligible high-cost areas



**\$4.15 B**

## **SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES PROGRAM**

Funding for telecom and broadband services to eligible schools and libraries



**\$571 M**

## **RURAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM**

Funding for telecom and broadband services to eligible rural health care providers

*Long Term*

# 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Priority Window

- Once-in-a-generation opportunity for Tribes to obtain spectrum licenses
- Available to federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Hawaiian Home Lands in rural areas
- 2.5 GHz spectrum is capable of providing high-speed wireless broadband service
- Puts Tribes in control of the provision of service
- Provides Tribes with a valuable economic asset
- Open February 3, 2020 to September 2, 2020

*Long Term*

# Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

- **\$20.4 Billion** for broadband deployment
- Reverse auction model
- Funding available **only in eligible areas** – “census blocks where no provider is offering, or has committed to offer...service of at least 25/3 Mbps, based on Form 477 data.”
- Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC) or entities able to become an ETC after receiving a funding award
- Phase I bidding (\$16 Billion) - October 29, 2020



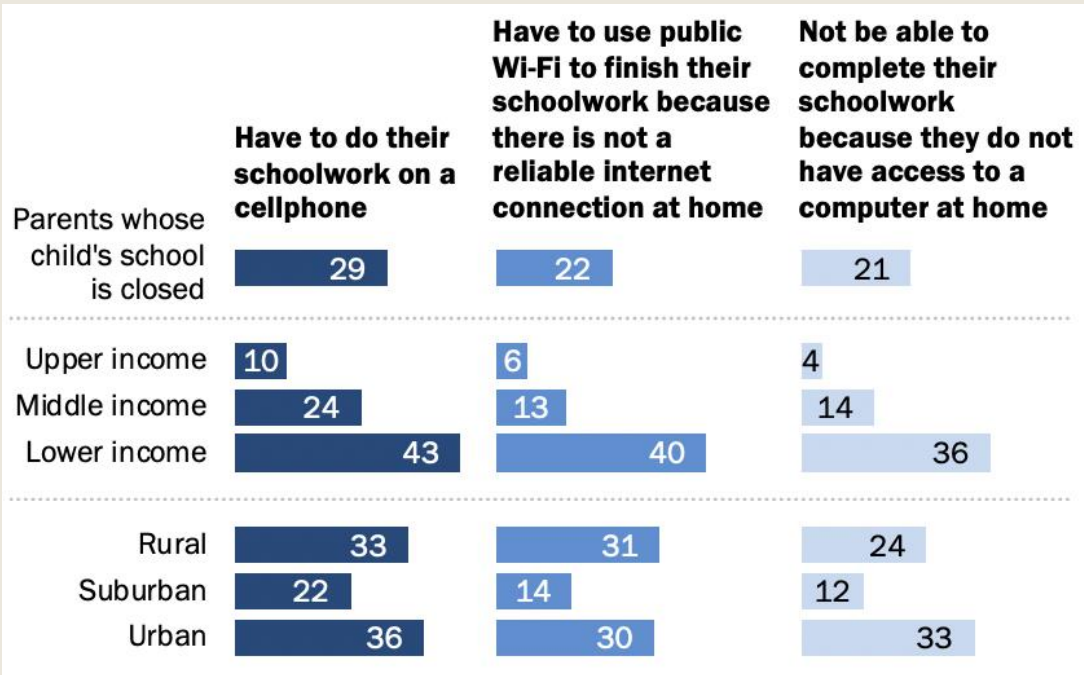
# Covid-19 Telehealth Program

*Short Term*

- Response to the pandemic, CARES Act
- \$200 Million
- To help eligible health care providers provide telehealth services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Nonprofit and public health care providers only
- 8 types of eligible entities, including nonrural entities eligible
- Opened April 13, stopped receiving applications on June 25

INCLUDING LOW-INCOME  
WOMEN & GIRLS  
IN THE DIGITAL AGE

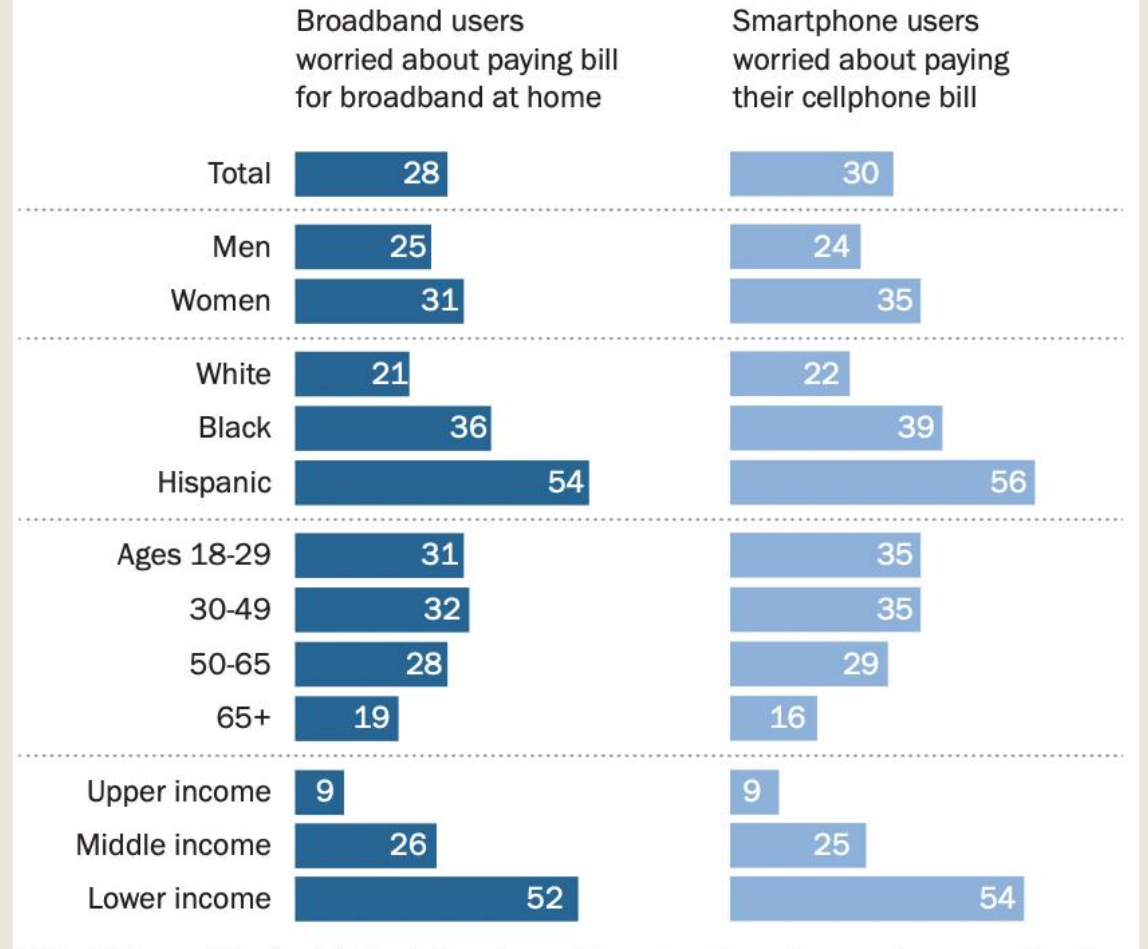




# COVID-19 Exposed Link Between Education and Internet Access

## Hispanic and lower-income tech users are especially worried about paying home broadband, cellphone bills

*% of home broadband and smartphone users who say they worry a lot or some about paying their bills over the next few months for ...*



Source: PEW Research Center

*Let's Revisit:*

# Ways that a self-sustaining woman uses the Internet

- Entrepreneur
- Work / Professional
- Student / prospective student
- Connect with community
- Medical care
- Civic engagement
- Find / share information
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*How do we ensure that  
low-income women and girls can  
also access the internet in these  
ways?*



“DIGITAL INCLUSION REQUIRES INTENTIONAL STRATEGIES AND INVESTMENTS TO REDUCE AND ELIMINATE HISTORICAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO ACCESS AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY”

*National Digital Inclusion Alliance*

# Digital Inclusion

- Affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service
- Devices that meet the needs of the user
- Digital Literacy
- Quality technical support
- Applications and content that enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration
- Intergenerational collaboration

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

