



THE SUNRISE CITY
FORT PIERCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COMMISSION

Florida

September 11, 2024

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: St. Lucie Education Foundation Digital Equity Competitive Grant

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, please accept this letter of support for the St. Lucie County Education Foundation's application to the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. This grant represents a significant opportunity to address digital inequities in our community through the proposed St. Lucie Internet Essentials Partnership Program, which will provide much-needed resources such as internet services, digital literacy training, and devices to families in underserved areas.

The digital divide continues to be a pressing issue in our community, and many families lack access to the tools and skills necessary to participate fully in today's increasingly digital world. This is particularly true for low-income households, where the absence of reliable internet access and adequate digital literacy can severely hinder educational achievement and career development. The St. Lucie Internet Essentials Partnership Program is designed to tackle these barriers head-on, ensuring that students and families are not left behind.

As an organization dedicated to the citizens of this community, we recognize the importance of equitable access to technology and digital resources. We believe the St. Lucie Education Foundation's initiative will help bridge the digital divide and create new opportunities for growth and empowerment within our community.

We fully support the St. Lucie County Education Foundation's efforts and are committed to working alongside them to ensure the success of this vital program. We urge you to give their grant application your highest consideration, as this investment in digital equity will have lasting benefits for students, families, and the broader community.

Should you need further information or additional support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson, Mayor