

Press Release
November 18, 2021

President Joe Biden recently signed a \$1 trillion dollar infrastructure deal that will give Georgia increased funds towards improving broadband access across the state. The new bill will grant \$100 million statewide to help make it easier for people to have access to high-speed and reliable internet. Part of the problem has been that at least fifteen percent of Georgia households either do not have internet subscriptions or live in areas where there is no broadband infrastructure. As one of the fastest-growing non-profit technology companies in metro Atlanta, Inspiredu is thrilled to help address this need. The newly rebranded nonprofit Inspiredu has been changing the narrative and assisting families in the community for over a decade now. They have been working on ways to close the digital divide by partnering with corporations, private lenders, community centers, and schools to provide internet access, devices, and basic computer training. This bill supports their efforts to bridge the digital divide and support Georgians whose internet access was previously limited, at best.

Richard Hicks, Inspiredu's CEO, says, "This infrastructure bill will place Georgia on a new path to being a state that focuses on bridging the digital divide so that access to technology can strengthen not only our educational footprint, but also our growing workforce by allowing workforce development training to be implemented anywhere within the state. The importance of educating our youth and building a trained workforce cannot be overstated."

Oneisha Freeman, Inspiredu's Director of Programs and Partnerships, has been a part of the organization for several years and is excited about the possibilities for the families they serve. In a recent interview with Fox 5 Atlanta, Freeman says that the infrastructure deal will help in a myriad of ways across the state of Georgia: "People can run their businesses. Mom and pop shops in our rural communities can advertise in their communities. Nonprofits across our state can get their amazing resources to the people

they're trying to help. Seniors can connect via telehealth.” The impact that will be felt in Georgia will be far-reaching and long-lasting.

Inspiredu’s strategic plan to move forward is to continue doing what they know how to do best, changing lives through technology and education. For more information about Inspiredu’s impact, you can visit their website at iuatl.org or reach out for interview requests to fwilliams@iuatl.org

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