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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Free and Discounted Internet for Qualifying Individuals and Patients**

### ***Link Health Partners with Legacy Community Health Clinics to Expand Telehealth Access***

**HOUSTON – (October 24, 2023)** – National nonprofit organization Link Health announced the inception of its Houston location with a goal to help Houstonians get access to free or reduced internet access at home through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Recognized by stalwarts in Boston for its transformative approach in harnessing the health sector to advance connectivity, Link Health is set to further its mission in greater Houston through [Link Health: Houston](#) which partners with large health systems and Federally Qualified Health Centers such as Legacy Community Health, Lone Star Family Health Center, and the Harris Health System.

During the past Texas legislative session, six broadband bills were signed into law, prioritizing access to the internet as a statewide initiative. However, in Houston more than 170,000 households lack access to the internet according to Education Superhighway. The number is even greater statewide because in Texas, over 4 million people face the digital divide. Of the 4 million Texans that are eligible for the ACP benefit, 2.7 million remain unenrolled.

Fortunately, **a federal provision of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law aims to narrow this gap by offering an up to \$75 monthly subsidy on any internet service plan from partnered providers. Additionally, those providers are also offering a one-time subsidy of \$100 to purchase a device such as a laptop or tablet.** The challenge has been educating the public about the benefit and helping them get enrolled. “Legacy is thrilled to [work] with Link Health to bring internet connectivity to our community members that need it most,” said Lindsay Lanagan, Vice President of Government Relations for Legacy Community Health. “The internet is more than social media – this will serve to connect families to each other, individuals to health care, and for some, it may even be a lifeline.”

“Through our work with healthcare systems we have helped families receive over \$240,000 in discounts from the ACP. We’re helping put this money back into under-resourced households. With the ACP’s monthly discount, families can save up to \$900 a year and use that money for other household expenses,” said Link Health founder, [Dr. Alister Martin](#). As part of this effort, Link Health is working with health centers across Houston to facilitate ACP enrollments directly in the waiting rooms.

For patients of Legacy Community Health and qualifying individuals, enrollment is easy. You are eligible if you (or someone in your household) participate in one of these programs:



- \* Medicaid
- \* SNAP
- \* WIC
- \* SSI
- \* Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program
- \* Federal Public Housing Assistance
- \* Received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year

Representatives from Link Health will be present at the following Legacy clinics through December:

- Mondays: Fifth Ward (3811 Lyons Avenue) 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Tuesdays: Montrose (1415 California Street) 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- Fridays: Southwest (6441 High Star Drive) 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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#### **About Legacy Community Health Services, Inc.**

Legacy Community Health is a full-service health care system comprised of over 50 locations in the Texas Gulf Coast region offering primary and specialty care, as well as pharmacy services. For over 40 years, Legacy has been innovating the ways we provide comprehensive, quality health care services to underserved communities. As the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas and a United Way affiliated agency since 1990, Legacy ensures its services and programs are open to all, regardless of the ability to pay—without judgment or exception. To learn more, visit [www.legacycommunityhealth.org](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org).

#### **About Link Health**

Founded by ER physician and Harvard Assistant Professor, Dr. Alister Martin, as a branch of the non-profit incubator A Healthier Democracy, Link Health epitomizes the commitment to fostering health equity and civic participation. Link Health's groundbreaking contributions have been Featured at the [Aspen Institute](#), [The Boston Globe](#), and the [New England Journal of Medicine](#). To become a part of this transformative journey or to learn more about the Houston Initiative, please get in touch with us at [arsheill@ahealthierdemocracy.org](mailto:arsheill@ahealthierdemocracy.org).

*Link Health: Bridging the Digital Divide, One Patient at a Time*