

CLPHA



HOUSING IS SUMMIT 2021



#HousingIs2021

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Broadband Justice Act

How federal legislation can improve broadband access for HUD-assisted households

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Affordable housing residents are
**2x as likely to lack high quality
broadband** than the general population

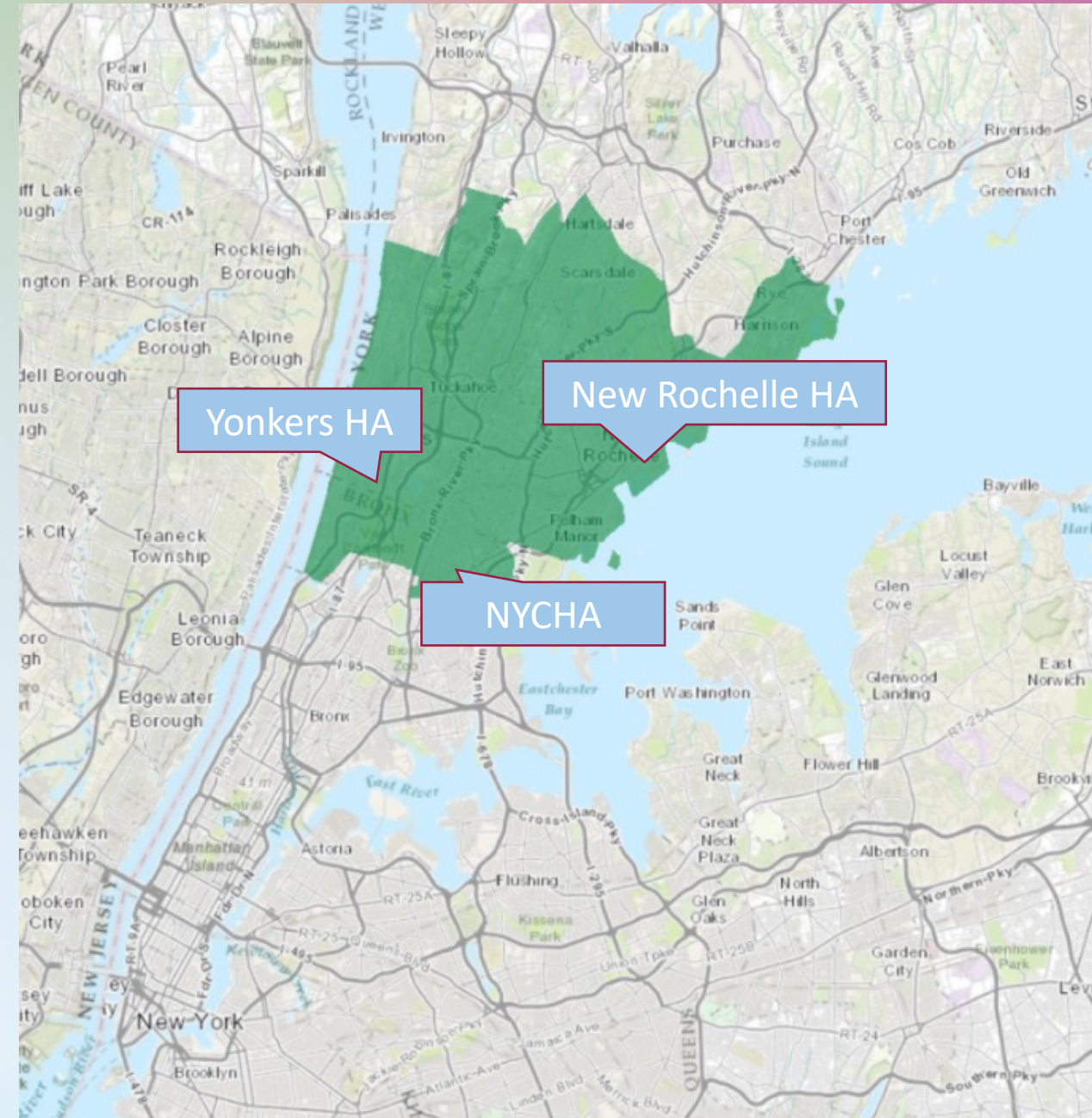
In New York's 16th Congressional District:

4,266 public housing units

16,678 section 8 units

10% of seniors lack internet

8% of children lack internet



1.
**High monthly
costs for public
housing tenants**

2.
**PHAs lacking
funds to
support tenant
broadband**

3.
**Infrastructure
access and
adoption
challenges**

HR1904: Broadband Justice Act

1. Changes the HUD, Treasury, and USDA utility allowance definitions to include broadband as a subsidized utility
2. Provides \$5B in annual funding for broadband in federally-assisted households, averaging ~\$50/household
3. Creates a flexible grant/loan program for housing providers to support broadband infrastructure upgrades and access

HR1904: Broadband Justice Act

- No enrollment needed – automatic subsidy based on where you live
- Addresses this issue at the development level, which is often how internet services are provided
- Encourages community broadband networks and open access
- Silo-busting at the federal level. All agencies have an obligation to minimize the digital divide, not just the FCC.

American Jobs Plan

- Historic opportunity to improve housing infrastructure + broadband infrastructure
- \$100B in broadband infrastructure & \$213B in housing infrastructure
- Need to ensure federal investments emphasize equity and cross-sector investments to address people's needs *where they live*

Passing legislation takes all of us

Want to see the Broadband Justice Act come to your housing authority residents?

Call/email/meet with your Representatives!

Thank you!



@ruthgourevitch



Bowman.house.gov