

# Colorado's Digital Equity Plan

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The Office of the  
**Future of Work**

# Digital Equity Terms



- **Digital literacy:** using information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information<sup>2</sup>
- **Digital inclusion:** activities that ensure all individuals and communities have access to information and communication technologies, and the literacy to use them<sup>1</sup>
- **Digital equity:** all individuals and communities have the IT capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy and economy.<sup>1</sup> Includes access to:
  - Affordable, high-speed internet
  - Affordable, web-enabled technology
  - Effective training and support for digital skill development and use

<sup>1</sup>National Digital Inclusion Alliance

<sup>2</sup>AmericanLibrary Association

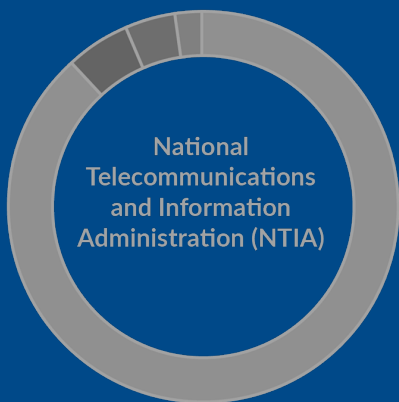


Image: Civis.com

# Colorado's Digital Equity Plan

- **\$42.45 billion**  
STATE & TERRITORY GRANTS
- **\$2.75 billion**  
DIGITAL EQUITY INITIATIVES
- **\$2 billion**  
TRIBAL LANDS BROADBAND ACCESS
- **\$1 billion**  
MIDDLE-MILE CONNECTIONS

\$897,000 to create plan

Planning ends 11/30/2023

Capacity funding expected Q1 2024

\$20M expected to fund plan implementation

Implementation period ends 2028

Colorado's digital equity ecosystem  
established

## Planning Funds

# Covered Populations



Individuals who live in covered households



Veterans



Aging individuals



Individuals with a language barrier (i.e. English learners or people with low literacy levels)



Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility



Members of a racial or ethnic minority group



Individuals with disabilities



Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area

Graphic: NDIA ([digitalinclusion.org](https://digitalinclusion.org))



# Measurable Objectives



- Affordability and availability of broadband
- Accessibility of public resources & services
- Affordability and availability of internet-enabled devices
- Digital literacy
- Cybersecurity

# Community Engagement



- Funding opportunity for survey administration
- Digital Equity Committee
- Digital Equity Working Group
- State Digital Equity Working Group
- Listening sessions (Rural Philanthropy Days, CBO Listening Tour)





## Planning Funds

# Data Gathering

- Data collection & analysis consultant
  - Identifying gaps in data
  - Review of existing data
  - Creation of survey questions
  - Asset mapping
- Existing surveys – added digital equity questions (CHAS & PLAR)

# Digital Navigator Pilot Program

## Collaboration with AmeriCorps Serve Colorado

- Funded by SB22-140: Expansion of Experiential Learning Opportunities
- Navigators provide individual or group support for people with few or no digital skills
- Work in community based organizations, such as libraries
- Digital Navigator intermediaries opportunity due April 11



Image: Denver Public Library





# Questions & Discussion





# Help us make a great plan for Colorado.



Contribute to shared documents for covered populations



Participate in Digital Equity Committee meetings



Talk about digital equity and inclusion wherever you go!



Contact Melanie for individual meetings & presentations