

# DIGITAL EQUITY INITIATIVE

*Providing leadership in Arlington's pursuit of digital equity*



## FY2027 Digital Equity Notice of Funding Availability

Revised May 22, 2026 (Revisions highlighted in yellow)

Arlington County recognizes digital access and skills as essential infrastructure for economic mobility, education, healthcare access, and civic participation. While the County is among the most connected communities in the nation, disparities persist—particularly for older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income households, and residents with language barriers. These gaps limit residents' ability to fully participate in an increasingly digital society.

Findings from the County's 2024 Broadband Study and recent program implementation highlight a clear need to expand digital inclusion efforts—particularly in delivering accessible, community-based digital skills training and providing trusted, on-the-ground technical assistance. While Arlington benefits from strong existing assets, current services do not fully meet the scale or diversity of community need. Residents require more coordinated, culturally responsive, and personalized support to effectively adopt and use technology.

To address these gaps, Arlington County's Digital Equity Initiative is making **up to \$500,000 in one-time funding** available to support community-driven digital inclusion programs.

This funding opportunity is designed to:

- Expand access to **digital navigation services** that provide individualized, trusted support
- Scale or pilot **digital skills training programs** that build confidence and workforce-relevant competencies
- Increase **community engagement and awareness** around technology use and emerging tools
- Strengthen the **local digital inclusion ecosystem** through partnerships and capacity-building

Arlington County is seeking proposals that are **strategic, collaborative, and results-driven**, with a clear focus on reaching residents most impacted by digital inequities. Funding is available through two tracks to support both large-scale partnerships and smaller, innovative pilots. Through this investment, the County aims to accelerate progress toward a more equitable and connected community.

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## FY27 Digital Equity Grant Focus Areas

Focus Area	Description
<b>Digital Navigation</b> Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information.	Training and deploying navigators to provide 1:1 technical assistance at community-based organizations and/or County facilities. In addition to navigator training/deployment costs, grant may include personal devices, laptops, modems, or routers to distribute to clients served and communications collateral to distribute to residents, or platforms/engagement to promote a navigator ecosystem.
<b>Digital Training Cohorts</b>	Cohort-based models that train a group of individuals on digital/online topics. Training may vary from basic computing/technology skills to more technical training on tools such as Artificial Intelligence, cloud-based technology, assistive technology needed by people with disabilities, or other training that enables professional technology certifications or promotes workforce development. In addition to costs to implement training, grant may also include the following supplements: personal devices, modems, or routers to distribute to clients served, assistive technology for persons with disabilities, 1:1 technical assistance/navigation that acts as a supplement to the training, and/or cost for IT-based certifications.
<b>Community Tech Lectures</b>	Series of public tech lectures, technology showcases, roundtable discussions, or other community engagement related to technology topics (e.g., AI, assistive technology tools, online security, digital citizenship). While lectures may be open to the public, they should be targeted to populations identified in this NOFA.
<b>Device Refurbishment</b>	Provides used low-or no-cost devices to families while reducing the environmental impact on the lifecycle of these devices. Projects could include a workforce development component, providing experiential programming related to refurbishing devices.
<b>Ineligible Activities</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Internet Affordability</b>	While internet affordability is an important component to digital equity, this grant cycle will not go towards internet subsidies. Applicants are encouraged to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Arlington Public Schools Program</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Comcast's Expansion of Internet Essentials to All Affordable Housing</a> in Arlington</li> <li>• <a href="#">Lifeline Federal Subsidy</a></li> <li>• Partnership with separate entities to support an internet subsidy component to enhance the project</li> </ul>
<b>General STEM</b>	Proposals may not include general STEM or "technology" projects. Proposals must be targeted to skill-building related to digital, computer, or internet topics (e.g., digital citizenship, coding, online safety, artificial intelligence, computer/software skills).
<b>Research</b>	Proposals may not include costs to develop or publish research reports, academic journals, or case studies.

## FY27 Digital Equity Grant Application Tracks

Track	Track Description	Eligibility	Term / Distribution Method	Anticipated Award
<b>Partnership Implementation Grants</b>	<p>For larger projects (e.g., 200+ individuals served) with multiple partners</p> <p>Note that 200+ individuals served is a suggested goal given the funding levels and beneficiaries served under the FY2026 grant. Partnership Implementation proposals with less than 200 individuals served will not be disqualified.</p>	<p>3+ Implementation Partners, including the applicant.</p> <p>Partner must have an active role in project implementation. This includes offering space, providing outreach (not generic referral partner), delivering programming, co-designing the project.</p>	<p>Two (2) years</p> <p>Reimbursement Grant</p>	<p>Up to \$100,000 - \$150,000 awards</p> <p>Anticipated awards: 2-3</p>
<b>Innovation Grants</b>	Smaller scale projects, pilots	Any eligible entity.	<p>One (1) year</p> <p>Reimbursement Grant</p>	<p>Up to \$25,000</p> <p>Anticipated awards: 2-6</p>
<b>Optional Supplement to Tracks Above: Capacity-Building Grants</b>	<p>For costs associated with expanding organizational capacity related to the project proposed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Attending professional development conferences related to digital inclusion</li> <li>-Staff training or certifications</li> <li>-Data management system or tools</li> <li>-Strategic planning</li> </ul> <p>*Not intended for client services or to hire staff.</p>	<p>Tax-exempt nonprofit (or under fiscal sponsorship) with organizational revenue under \$500,000 documented via the most recent Form 990.</p> <p>Organization may be another partner in the project if prime applicant is ineligible.</p>	<p>Reimbursement Grant within six (6) months of grant agreement</p>	<p>Up to \$2,500 (outside of anticipated award from tracks above)</p> <p>Anticipated awards: No greater than the number of grantees funded through tracks above</p>

## Targeted Populations

Projects targeting the following populations will be prioritized:

- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- Incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals
- English language learners or those with language barriers
- Low-income households

In addition, projects located in high-need areas will also be a priority (See Appendix 1).

In the development of your proposal, consider using Arlington's [Race and Ethnicity Dashboard](#) or [Community Vulnerability Index Map](#) and applying [Arlington's Equity Lens Questions](#) (see image to the right). In addition, the [American Community Survey](#) provides computer/internet subscription data by socio-demographic, including from: B28009 Series, B28007, or B28004.



## Eligible Entities

- Eligible organizations must serve Arlington residents. Organizations may be based outside of Arlington County provided that the proposed project benefits Arlington County residents.
- Virginia public institute of higher education. These entities must include a community partner as co-implementer documented in the application (e.g., local nonprofit, County Department, Arlington Public School). Funding must go toward direct delivery service. Funding research is not eligible.
- Nonprofit organizations must be incorporated and tax exempt under 501c3. Applicant may apply through a fiscal agent who will execute the grant agreement and directly meet all the other eligibility requirements.
- If applicants are faith-based nonprofit organizations, projects, including outreach efforts and services, must be provided to any eligible beneficiary, regardless of religious affiliation (or lack thereof). Programs cannot be marketed exclusively to members of the sponsoring organization's religious affiliation or denomination, and proselytizing while providing services related to this grant funding is prohibited.
- Grantees must be able to participate in Digital Equity Coalition meetings.
- Must agree to execute a grant agreement with the County. For more information, view the [Form Grant Agreement](#) (PDF). Upon notification of a grant award recommendation, applicants will be required to review the Form Grant Agreement and notify the County of their acceptance of its terms prior to County Board approval of a grant award. *Applicants with questions or concerns regarding the Form Grant Agreement should contact the Digital Equity Coordinator by the deadline specified in the award notification letter. Any changes to the Form Grant Agreement are subject to review and approval by the County Attorney.*

## Submission Requirements

The application process is set up with two funding tracks and an optional capacity-building grant request for a subset of eligible entities. Applicants are limited to one application per organization per track (for

institutes of higher education, one application per Department per track will be allowed). **This does not preclude organizations from serving a role in other project submissions.**

### Pre-Application

All applicants intending to submit a full application must submit a pre-application electronically through [Submittable](#) no later than 5:00 pm on June 5, 2026. Organizations that do not submit a pre-application by the deadline will not be permitted to submit a full application. All applications that are submitted by the pre-application deadline will be evaluated for the following:

1. Alignment with one or more focus areas of the FY2027 Digital Equity Grant.
2. Consistency with the eligibility requirements of each grant track.
3. Completeness of pre-application contents, meaning that an application includes all required documents.

The application will include preliminary information to perform a threshold check on eligibility and general alignment with the digital equity focus areas. At this stage, applicants will share basic information related to the organization and project. If applying for a Partnership Implementation Grant, the pre-application must identify two additional core partners and their roles. All applications at this stage must include the applicant's tax-exempt status, including 501c3 and submission of latest tax season's IRS Federal Form 990, to confirm eligibility.

Applicants will be notified by **June 12, 2026** if they are invited to submit a full application.

See Appendix 2 for the Pre-Application questions.

### Full Application

All proposals, including any attachments, must be submitted electronically through [Submittable](#) no later than **5:00 pm on July 10, 2026**. Applicants may submit the following attachments that may support their application, including but not limited to:

- Partnership Agreements, such as MOUs, letters of intent, or other formal documentation that details the partner and their role in the project. **[This is required for the Partnership Implementation Grant. Applications without letters documenting the partnership will be disqualified].** Documentation must include:
  - i. A brief statement about the partner,
  - ii. The partner's mission and focus,
  - iii. Statement of the partner's role in the project, and
  - iv. Project execution details.
- Letters of support that meaningfully share the organization's reputation and ability to address a documented need in the community
- Funding commitments, letters of intent, or other formal documentation
- Staff resumes
- Program marketing information

Applications will be reviewed for completeness and to ensure all narrative questions were answered and required information submitted. If an application is missing components, they will have a twenty-four hour cure period. If the issue is not corrected, the application will be disqualified.

Applicants electing a capacity-building grant will be prompted to answer additional questions at the end of the application.

See Appendix 3 for the Full Application questions.

## Project Selection

Projects will be reviewed by a small interdepartmental County staff team using the full scoring rubric in Appendix 4.

Selection will be based upon the proposal’s ability to:

1. Incorporate a detailed and thoughtful project that addresses barriers to technology use and advances the County’s goals to expand digital inclusion activities targeted to populations and areas in need.
2. Deliver the project creatively, minimizing duplication of efforts compared to other organizations and County offerings while promoting partnership to maximize resources.
3. Organize an experienced project team that has documented success delivering similar programs and will provide measurable impact to the community it serves.
4. Propose a clear, transparent budget that supports a measurable value-add to delivering the project and sustaining and growing the project over time.

## Anticipated Timeline

Opportunity Announcement	May 18, 2026
Virtual Q + A (to be recorded)	May 28, 2026, 12:00PM <a href="#">Microsoft Teams Meeting Link</a>
Pre-Applications Due	June 5, 2026, 5:00PM
Anticipated Invitations to Organizations to Submit Full Applications	Week of June 8, 2026
Virtual Office Hours	By Appointment via <a href="mailto:digitalequity@arlingtonva.us">digitalequity@arlingtonva.us</a> 10 am – 4 pm June 15 – June 30, 2026
Deadline to Submit Questions	June 30, 2026, 5:00 PM
Full Applications Due	July 10, 2026, 5:00 PM
Anticipated Recommendations to Be Shared with Applicants	Fall 2026
Finalize grant agreements (except signature)	Prior to the County Board Meeting approving grants
Anticipated County Board Approval	By end of year 2026
Anticipated Project Start Date	January 2027

## Contact Information

Questions received verbally or in writing will be posted to the project webpage on a rolling basis in a Q+A section on the grant webpage. The deadline to submit questions is June 30, 2026, by 5:00 pm.

Applicants who submit full proposals are highly encouraged to set up at least one appointment with staff during office hours to support the development of the application.

Questions may be directed to:

Jennifer Skow  
Digital Equity Coordinator  
Research and Strategic Initiatives Group – CPHD  
[DigitalEquity@arlingtonva.us](mailto:DigitalEquity@arlingtonva.us)  
703-228-3536

## Other Requirements and Considerations

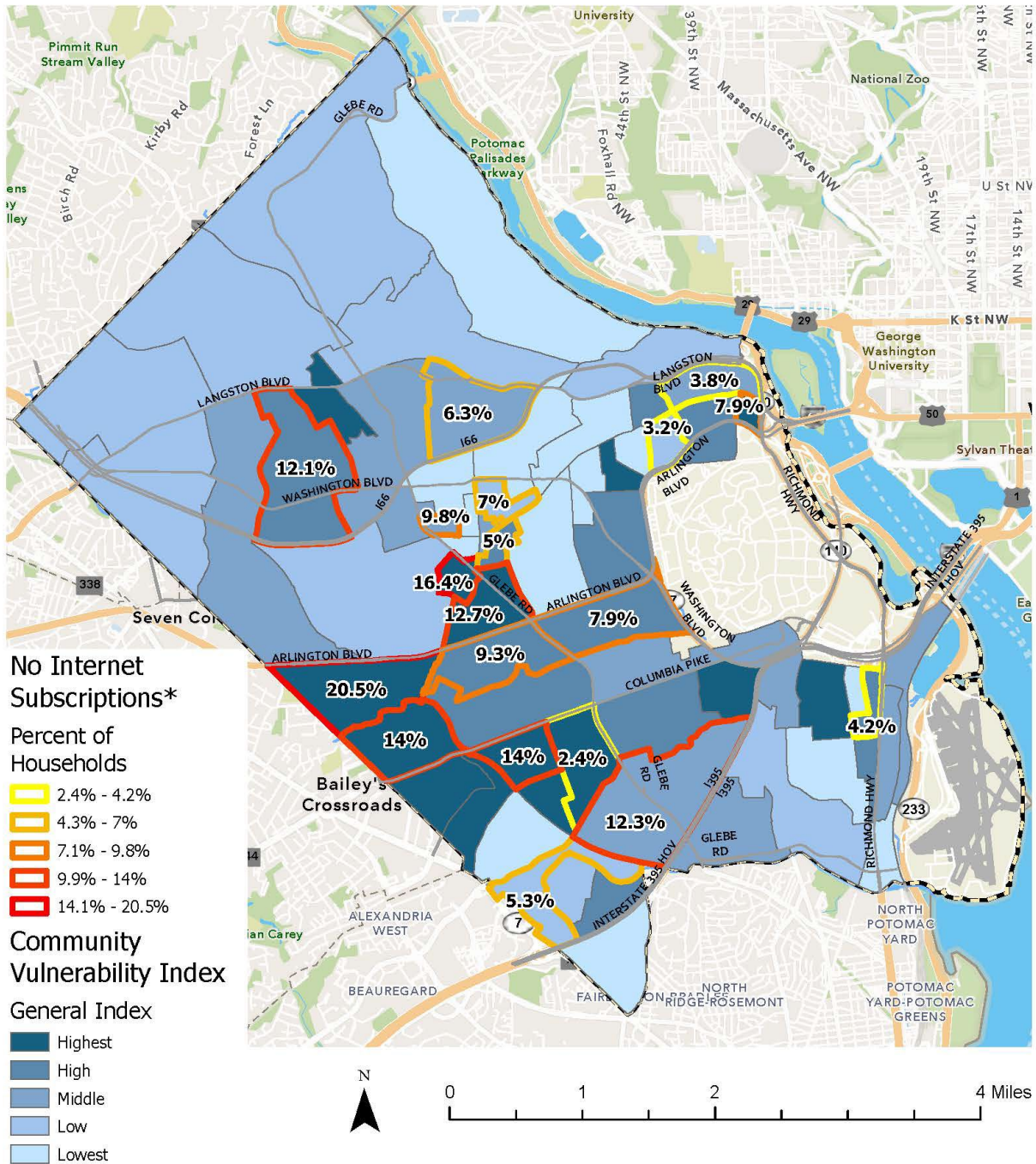
- Funding proposal may not reflect the actual amount allocated. The selection team may suggest refinements to the proposal, including areas to promote efficiency with other similar proposals or local resources.
- Funded partners must regularly participate in or support the Arlington Digital Equity Coalition. Grantees may also be asked to present to the Coalition or other organizational representatives.
- Grantees will enter into a grant agreement documenting the final scope of work, budget, payment schedule, targeted outcomes, any necessary description of roles, site visits, funding draw schedule and requirements, or other requirements.
- Upon notification of a grant award recommendation, applicants will be required to review the [Form Grant Agreement](#) and notify the County of their acceptance *prior to County Board approval*. Applicants with questions or concerns regarding the agreement should contact the Digital Equity Coordinator. *Any changes to the Form Grant Agreement are subject to review and approval by the County Attorney.*
- Grantees will develop a written after-action report documenting impact and performance goals achieved, lessons learned, and long-term strategy recommendations for the project, including project sustainability needs.
- Submitted applications are subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (“VFOIA”).
- Arlington County reserves the right to reject any and all applications and/or cancel this grant at any time.
- All funding decisions are final and are not subject to review, appeal, or protest.
- Grantees will need to work with a County representative to submit a W-9 form and confirm payment instructions before funding is disbursed. The most recent IRS W-9 can be found here: [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf)
- When applicable, grantees will need a valid business license and must have no overdue County business license taxes per the Commissioner of Revenue. Once selected for a grant award, you may contact the office below to verify if your organization requires a business license and to confirm tax status.

Arlington County Business License Division  
Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 200

Arlington, VA 22201  
[business@arlingtonva.us](mailto:business@arlingtonva.us)  
703-228-3060

# Appendix 1 – High-Need Areas Map

## Households Without Internet Subscriptions and CVIM



\*Tracts shown have large enough sample for estimates to be considered reliable.

Community Vulnerability Index Map (2023 ACS)  
2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates  
CPHD, Research and Strategic Initiatives Group, February 2026

## Appendix 2 – Pre-Application

All applications must be submitted online through [Submittable](#). This document provides the questions on the form. The form will also provide space to submit required attachments.

1. **Organization Name:**
2. **Organization Address:**
3. **Organization Type (check one):**
  - 501c3 Nonprofit organization
  - Nonprofit applying under fiscal sponsorship (applicants will be asked to provide an overview of the fiscal sponsor)
  - Virginia public institute of higher education
4. **Employer Identification Number:**
5. **Do you have an Arlington County Business License Number?**
6. **Arlington County Business License Number (if applicable):** *This is required only if your organization already has an Arlington County Business License Number. This information is requested to ensure that organizations who have a physical presence in Arlington with a business license are up-to-date on Arlington taxes.*
7. **Point of Contact Information:**
8. **Past Digital Equity Grantee**
  - Yes  No
9. **Proposal Name:**
10. **Proposal Synopsis:**
11. **Project Funding Request:** *Do not include funding for capacity-building grant. This will be tracked separately.*
12. **List the partners in the project (including the applicant). Include the organizational type (e.g., nonprofit, university), the role in the project, and a brief description of each organization’s mission/history.** *To be considered a partner, the organization must play an active role in the project. This may include providing space, outreach (outside of general referrals), or delivering part of the services. Include the applicant as a partner. Fiscal sponsors are not considered implementation partners for this purpose. During the full application stage, Partnership Implementation Grant applicants must attach an MOU, letter of intent, or contract documenting the partnership in the full proposal, including identifying the partner’s role in the project. Partnership Implementation Grantees must have two additional partners that support the project. Universities must have at least one community partner. While partnerships are not required of Innovation Grant applicants, proposals with stated implementation partners are strongly encouraged to submit documentation, as the score will be impacted for proposals with stated partners and no or incomplete documentation.*
13. **Funding Track (check one)**
  - Partnership Implementation Grant
  - Innovation Grant
14. **Project Funding Request:** *Do not include funding for capacity-building grant. This will be tracked separately.*
15. **Will your organization include a request for a capacity-building grant?**
  - Yes  No
16. **What activities will the capacity-building grant fund?** Net Inclusion 2027, Other digital equity related conferences, workshops, or seminars, Staff training/certifications, Strategic planning, Other.
17. **Required Eligibility Documentation**
  - Tax-exempt status: 501c3 determination letter, submission of latest tax season’s IRS Federal Form 990 to confirm eligibility.

- Applicants applying under fiscal sponsorship must submit formal documentation of fiscal sponsorship with a qualified 501c3 entity.

## Appendix 3 – Full Application

All applications must be submitted online through [Submittable](#). This document provides the questions on the form. The form will also provide space to submit required and optional attachments.

### Program Design + Quality

1. **Program Design Overview:** Provide a detailed explanation of the proposed activities, including how key activities will contribute to the project objective and goals. In the description, note where activities will take place, and which activities will be supported or carried out by partner organizations. Consider attaching documentation such as training curriculum, modules, or sample work plans to support the narrative. (500-word limit)

**1a. Timeline:** Provide a timeline for your proposal, highlighting all major components needed for project implementation and evaluation. (300 words)

2. **Community Need:** Identify the unmet need your project will address and how the program design will meaningfully expand digital tools for the target population. Discuss creative or evidence-based practices in the program design, and whether this proposal complements (or expands) existing digital inclusion efforts (rather than duplicates). (500-word limit)

*Note: Higher scoring proposals will use programmatic data and project experience to show rationale for program design elements.*

3. **Innovative Approach:** Discuss how the project demonstrates creativity and use of best practices to deliver services. Identify your efforts to minimize duplication of work among other organizations and the County and how your organization is building upon past work in digital inclusion. Past digital equity grantees should also identify how this proposal differs or expands upon past projects funded under Arlington’s digital equity grant. (300-word limit)

4. **Target Beneficiaries.**

Estimate the total number of residents or businesses to be served by this project.

Beneficiaries	Estimate supported by this project
Digital navigators trained/employed	
Residents supported by navigators	
Residents/businesses supported by digital skills training programming	
Residents/businesses supported by community tech lectures / community engagement events	
Devices distributed	
<b>Total</b>	

Provide a detailed description of who will directly benefit from the project, including any relevant demographic information, and where activities will take place (and why the locations

were chosen). Describe how the program will recruit and retain the target audience for the entire project period. Identify any accommodations embedded in the project design that aim to reduce barriers, maximizing who will benefit (e.g., transportation, language diversity, accommodations for persons with disabilities). (300-word limit)

## Organizational Experience

5. **Organizational Experience:** Describe your organization's experience delivering projects like the one proposed, including the staff involved in implementing the proposal and any other organizations involved to support project implementation. Describe how each group will contribute to the project's implementation. Why is your organization best suited to implement a project like this, and what unique attributes does your team bring to the project? If experience is limited, share why your organization is ready to try something new and what resources will be in place to support the new effort. (500-word limit)
6. **Past Experience:** Include more specific details about past experience. Include evidence of project success using performance data, clear outcomes, and lessons learned that have been incorporated in this design. (300-word limit)

## Program Evaluation

7. **Program Outputs:** Provide a bulleted list of no more than five (5) outputs that will be achieved as a direct result of program activities. Detail what data and/or metrics will be collected, as well as the methodology or tools (e.g., surveys, intake forms, client notes) that will be used to track outputs and include the frequency with which this data is collected. (300-word limit)  
*Note: Outputs are results that are immediately experienced (e.g., number of clients served, workshop attendees, devices distributed).*
8. **Program Outcomes:** Provide a bulleted list of no more than five (5) outcomes that will be achieved as a direct result of program activities. Explain how these outcomes will directly benefit the low-to-moderate income residents the program intends to serve. Detail what data and/or metrics will be collected, as well as the methodology or tools (surveys, intake forms, client notes, etc.) that will be used to track outcomes and include the frequency with which this data is collected. (300-word limit)  
*Note: Outcomes are typically the specific, measurable achievements or results that will be derived from the program or the benefit that program participants will receive based on program activities (e.g., such as job retention, increased wages).*

## Project Budget

9. **Budget:** Provide a budget using the [budget template](#). In the narrative sections, include details on how you plan to spend County funds, how the funds will be allocated among any partners, and the rate and number of hours used in your personnel calculations.

10. **Budget Narrative:** Discuss aspects of the project to be funded by the digital equity grant, the need for the funds, and other funding sources secured or planned for the project. The narrative should provide a clear link between costs, project goals, and planned activities and discuss how the funding provides a value-add to your organizational capacity to enhance or expand programming and ability to expand programming in the future, including any tangible aspects left after this project for future programming. Past digital equity grantees should also explain how this project expands impact from their past grant. (500-word limit)

## Capacity-Building

11. **Capacity-Building Funding Request:** *Note, costs should be outlined in the project budget template below the project budget.*
12. **Capacity-Building Synopsis:** Identify the activities you intend to fund with the capacity-building grant. *Note, the activities must be tied to the project proposed and related to digital equity and inclusion. (300-word limit)*
13. **Funding Justification:** Why is your organization seeking capacity-building funding? What tangible outcomes do you anticipate will come from the activity? How will it benefit the program proposed (now or in the future)? (500-word limit)

## Documentation

### 14. Required Documentation

- a. Budget Template (Submitted Above)
- b. Documentation of Partnership (For Partnership Implementation Grants): Must be in the form of an MOU, contract, or letter of intent signed by the partner organization. The document must provide:
  - A brief statement about the partner,
  - The partner's mission and focus,
  - Statement of the partner's role in the project, and
  - Project execution details.

### 15. Optional Documentation

Upload documents that may support the application narrative. These may include:

- a. Document of Partnership (for Innovation Grants). While partnerships are not required of innovation grantees, proposals with stated implementation partners are strongly encouraged to submit documentation, as the score will be impacted for proposals with stated partners and no or incomplete documentation. See 14b for what to include in the letter.
- b. Information regarding class curriculum or plans
- c. Staff resumes
- d. Annual reports or program marketing information
- e. Letters of support that meaningfully share the organization's reputation and ability to address a documented need in the community (related to the project)
- f. Funding commitments, letters of intent, or other formal funding documentation

## Appendix 4 – Application Scoring Rubric

	Possible Score	% of Total Score
<b>Score:</b> Project Design + Quality	20	36.4%
Organizational Capacity	10	18.2%
Program Evaluation	10	18.2%
Budget	15	27.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	

Criteria	Description	Scoring				
		1 (Poor)	2 (Limited)	3 (Moderate)	4 (Strong)	5 (Excellent)
Project Design & Quality						
<i>Addresses Clear Community Need</i>	The project identifies a real community need supported by data and/or community input.	Need is unclear, irrelevant, or disconnected from the target population or services. No data or examples are provided.	Need is vaguely described with minimal, outdated, or weak data. Limited connection to the target population or proposed services.	Need is adequately described with some relevant data examples. General connection to beneficiaries and proposed project.	Need is well supported by multiple data points or examples. Clear alignment between need, population, and proposed project.	Compelling description of need supported by strong secondary data (e.g., Census, County reports) and organizational evidence (e.g., waitlist, client feedback, gaps in program delivery). Strong alignment between need, population, and program design.

<i>Complete Program Design</i>	Proposal presents a complete, thoughtful strategy aligned with identified community need with a clear, detailed timeline covering all activities.	Program design is unclear, vague, or disconnected from the stated need. Significant concerns about project readiness.	Activities and details are listed but lack major details or alignment with the identified needs. Roles of partners are unclear or vague (if applicable). Readiness is weak, with major gaps.	Program design is outlined or presented as a framework with some detail and connection to need, but needed detail is missing. Partner roles are present but may lack clarity. Readiness is partially demonstrated.	Strategy is detailed with only minor gaps. Partner roles are mostly clear and aligned with intended impact and are well-described. Most readiness components are addressed.	Provides a complete, detailed strategy describing all major activities. Clearly demonstrates how the program will reduce identified community gaps. Strong evidence of full project readiness.
<i>Innovative Approach</i>	Proposal demonstrates creativity, use of best practices, and efforts to minimize duplication. Past digital equity grantees discuss how this proposal expands their work.	Duplicates existing efforts with no mitigation. No creativity, best practices, or meaningful expansion of digital tools or skills.	Minimal creativity or weak application of best practice approaches. Limited expansion of digital tools or skills. Duplication concerns are present with limited mitigation.	Approach is appropriate with some creativity or evidence-based elements. Modest expansion of digital tools or skills. Partial duplication mitigation present.	Creative approach using best practices with minor gaps. Expands digital tools or skills and demonstrates good effort to limit duplication.	Highly creative, evidence-based approach that meaningfully expands digital tools or skills. Clearly minimizes duplication with strong awareness of County and community efforts.

<i>Target Population</i>	Proposal clearly defines beneficiaries, location, outreach strategies, and accommodations to make the program/project accessible to the target population.	Target population is unclear. No outreach strategy or understanding of barriers.	Target population is vaguely described. Outreach strategy is generic or underdeveloped. Limited consideration of limiting barriers.	Target population is generally described. Outreach strategy is present but lacks some detail. Some accessibility considerations included. Location of service targeted to high-need areas (see <a href="#">2025 Annual Report</a> ).	Clear description of beneficiaries with a mostly detailed outreach strategy. Includes relevant accommodations to enable participation. Location of service targeted to high-need areas (see 2025 Annual Report).	Comprehensive, specific description of beneficiaries, location, and demographics. Location of service in high-need area. Strong, tailored outreach strategy. Concrete accommodations demonstrating deep understanding of barriers. Accommodations address relevant needs.
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Organizational Capacity		1 (Poor)	2 (Limited)	3 (Moderate)	4 (Strong)	5 (Excellent)
<i>Organizational Capacity - Project Team</i>	The team has the personnel, resources, and partnerships needed to implement the project.	Lacks necessary staff, resources, or partnerships. Implementation is not feasible.	Significant capacity gaps. Ability to implement is questionable without support.	Some relevant capacity, but there are noticeable gaps in staff, resources, or partnerships. Implementation is feasible.	Qualified team with adequate resources and relevant experience. Partnerships are mostly established or clearly planned.	Highly qualified team with well-qualified personnel, strong leadership, and proven experience. Partnerships are secured, documented, and add meaningful project value. No foreseeable barriers.
<i>Positive Impact - Past Performance</i>	Demonstrates prior success delivering similar programs.	Past performance is vague, minimal, or unrelated. No clear outcomes.	Past performance described but lacks clarity or relevant evidence. Impact is anecdotal or weak.	Relevant past performance with some data or examples. Impact is evident but limited.	Clear documentation of positive impact using relevant performance data and outcomes.	Compelling evidence of sustained success with strong performance data, clear outcomes, and lessons learned that strengthen the proposal.

Program Evaluation		1 (Poor)	2 (Limited)	3 (Moderate)	4 (Strong)	5 (Excellent)
<i>Program Outputs</i>	The outputs are clearly described and realistic. They logically result from the proposed activities and funding request. They are measurable, and the data collection tools are described.	Outputs are unclear, unrealistic, or not measurable. No data collection tools described.	Outputs are vague or weakly connected to activities. Measurability is limited.	Outputs are described but broad. Partial measurability and/or limited detail on data collection.	Clear, realistic outputs with logical connection to activities. Measurable with minor gaps.	Specific, realistic, and measurable outputs with clear data collection tools and strong alignment to activities.
<i>Program Outcome</i>	Outcomes are clearly described, achievable, measurable, and related to project goals, activities, and funding request. The proposal gives sufficient detail regarding intended data collection methods and makes clear connections between data collected and the use of it to inform project outcomes described.	Outcomes are mostly unclear, infeasible, or missing. No meaningful data collection plan.	Outcomes are vague or weakly aligned. Data collection methods are unclear.	Outcomes are generally aligned but lack specificity or clear metrics.	Clear, achievable outcomes with well-described data collection with only minor gaps.	Well-defined, measurable outcomes with strong alignment to project goals and funding. Comprehensive data collection plan with clear use of data to inform outcomes.
Budget		1 (Poor)	2 (Limited)	3 (Moderate)	4 (Strong)	5 (Excellent)
<i>Budget Quality</i>	The budget provides clear, concise descriptions of each line item reflective of market conditions. The budget includes other funding sources as described.	Budget is incomplete, unclear, or unrealistic. Funding sources are missing or inconsistent.	Line items are vague or questionable. Other funding sources are weakly described.	Budget is mostly clear but raises some feasibility questions.	Clear line items reflecting market conditions. Other funding sources are identified.	Clear, credible, and transparent budget aligned with market conditions. All funding sources are identified and fully documented.

<i>Budget Justification</i>	<p>The narrative presents the aspects of the project proposed to be funded and discusses how each budget category will contribute to the overall project.</p> <p>Discusses how funding provides value-add to organization to strengthen capacity and supports long-term sustainability. Past digital equity grantees explain how this project differs from past grants.</p>	Narrative does not explain budget items or rationale.	Justification is superficial or missing key explanations.	Basic justification but lacks some clarity or alignment.	Strong justification for most items with minor gaps.	Thorough, well-supported, clearly linking costs to activities and goals.
<i>Cost Containment</i>	Calculated by staff based on cost per beneficiary (by track)	1 <sup>st</sup> Quintile 0 - 20%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quintile 21 - 40%	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quintile 41 - 60%	4 <sup>th</sup> Quintile 61-80%	5 <sup>th</sup> Quintile 81-100%