Digital Equity and Closing the Digital Divide

PTC - 1/21/24
What is Digital Equity?

As defined by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA), digital equity is:

A condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy.

It is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.
KEY ELEMENTS OF DIGITAL EQUITY

- Internet: Access, Availability, Adoption
- Digital Literacy Skills: Pathways to a Safe & Secure Digital Economy
- Devices: Laptops, Tablets, Smartphones, Hotspots
- Affordability: Lifeline, Affordable Connectivity Program
- Digital Navigators: Community Support Network

BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF ALOHA
### Covered Populations

The planning and outreach process focused on “covered populations,” a broad description used by the NTIA that includes various populations within our community that are identified as having unique needs and barriers related to digital access. These covered populations include those identified by NTIA as well as those identified through our planning partners and process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered Households</th>
<th>Individuals who live in households with income below 150% of the poverty threshold</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kūpuna (Aging Individuals)</td>
<td>Individuals aged 60 years or older</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incarcerated Individuals</td>
<td>Individuals confined in a prison or a jail, other than those in a Federal correctional facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>Individuals who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and were honorably discharged or released</td>
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<td>Individuals with Disabilities</td>
<td>Individuals with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits life activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals with a Language Barrier</td>
<td>Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Racial or Ethnic Minorities</td>
<td>Individuals whose race or ethnicity is non-dominant within Hawai‘i</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Residents</td>
<td>Any town with less than 50,000 residents and not an urbanized area next to a town with 50,000 or more residents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiians</td>
<td>Individuals who trace their ancestry to those who inhabited Hawai‘i prior to 1778</td>
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</table>
HAWAII' I DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

FEBRUARY 2024
CLOSING THE GAP: FEDERAL SUPPORTS ≈ $400M

- **$149.5M**
  - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
  - UH

- **$115M**
  - Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF)
  - UH

- **$90M**
  - Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
  - DHHL

- **$37.4M**
  - Middle Mile Grant Program
  - Hawaiian Telcom

- **$16.6M**
  - Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
  - *Direct to Consumer

- **$571K**
  - Digital Equity Act Planning and Capacity Program
  - DBEDT

- **≈ $1M**
  - ACP Outreach Grant Program
  - DBEDT
  - ‘Elepaio Social Services
What is the Broadband Hui?

The Broadband Hui (BBHui) is an informal gathering of Hawaii’s broadband and digital equity stakeholders committed to helping close the digital divide. It is also a community of practice that brings together experts from across the broadband and digital equity ecosystem to:

- Share knowledge
- Collaborate on solutions
- Enable Hawaii’s residents to access high speed Internet access
- Achieve the goals set forth in the Digital Equity Declaration
*Guiding Star*
Digital Equity Declaration

**Broadband Systems Map**
- Policy
- Coordination
- Funding
- Access
- Literacy
- Livelihood

**Wifi on Wheels**
- Geo/Data Mapping
- Community Networks
- Cable Landing
- Cloud Infrastructure
- Wireless spectrum
- Refurbished Computers
- Carrier Programs
- Lifeline

**Digital Assessment**
- CS in Education
- Workforce Dev
- Computer Literacy

**Digital Economy**
- Distance Learning
- Telehealth
- Remote Work
- Data Gathering
- Cloudforce Development
- Creative Industries
Digital Equity Timeline

as of Jan 2024

- **Digital Equity Draft Plan submitted to NTIA**
  - Final Draft DE Plan due on Feb 13
  - Performance Period End on March 29.

- **DE Capacity Grant NOFO**

- **DE Competitive Grant NOFO**

- **Digital Equity Capacity Grant Application**

- **Develop State Grant Program**

- **Monitor Grants Measurable Objectives**

- **Award DE Capacity Grants**

- **2023**

- **2024**

- **2025+**
Mahalo

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BroadbandHui.org
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