Digital Equity 101

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What do Digital Equity and Inclusion Mean To YOU?

Digital Equity
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. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.
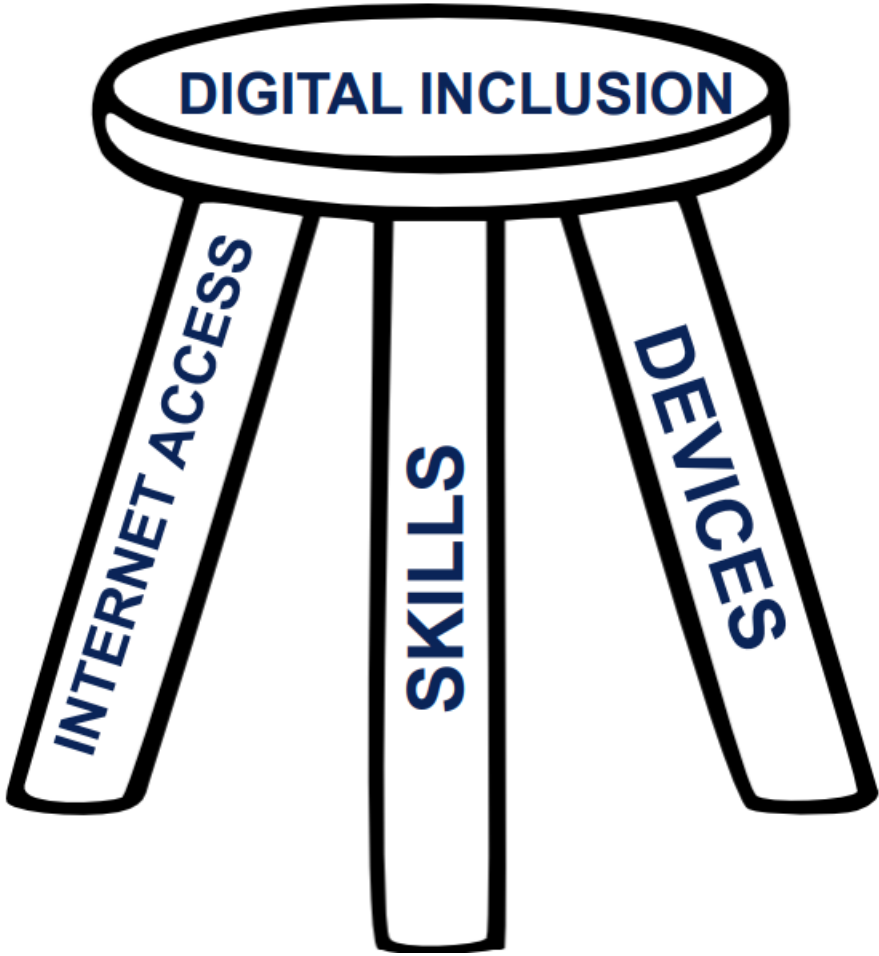
Digital divide is the issue.
Digital equity is the goal.
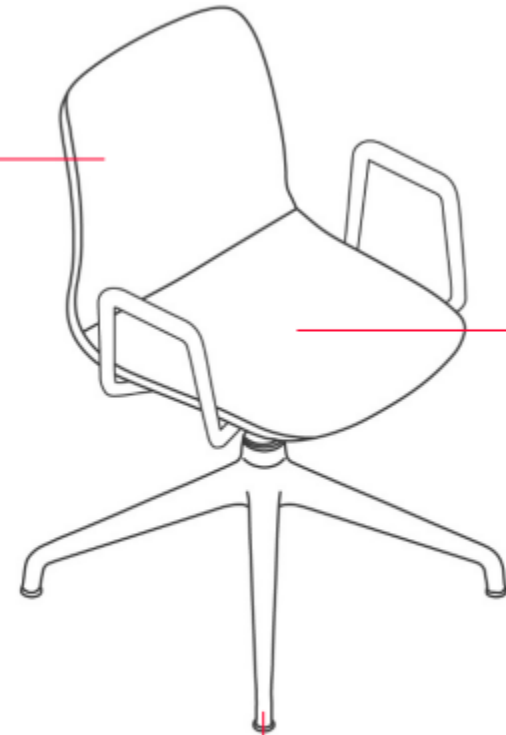Digital inclusion is the work.

Digital Inclusion
Digital Inclusion refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). This includes five elements:

- Affordable, robust broadband internet service
- Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
- Access to digital literacy training
- Quality technical support
- Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration

The Pillars of Digital Equity...

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
EDUCATION ACCESS
QUALITY HEALTHCARE
ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

DIGITAL INCLUSION

INTERNET ACCESS

SKILLS

DEVICES & IT SUPPORT

Defining Equity and Inclusion | Digital Equity is necessary for full society participation

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

Health (1) / Employment (2) / Education (3) / Essential Services (4) / Civic Participation (5)

1. Increases social connectedness & enables telehealth, improving patient outcomes

For example: Telehealth helps **reduce emergency department visits** [1]

2. Advances employment by facilitating job seeking and improving digital skills

For example: People without high-speed Internet are more likely to have difficulty **finding jobs** in their area [2]

3. Promotes education access through hybrid/online schooling and adult education

For example: Most U.S. 8th graders use the **Internet every day or almost every day** for their **homework** [3]

4. Improves access to essential services, like public safety and transportation

For example: Enabling comparisons of cost, time, and distance across **public transport options**

5. Enables online civic engagement, like connecting with state/local representatives

For example: Virtual townhalls connected **elected officials and constituents** during COVID [4]

1. Barton, J. (2018). *Promising telehealth initiatives highlight the need to close the digital divide.* Federal Reserve Bank of Texas. https://www.dallasfed.org/cd/pubs/2018/telehealth 2. Smith, A. (2015). *Lack of broadband can be a key obstacle, especially for job seekers.* Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/12/28/lack-of-broadband-can-be-a-key-obstacle-especially-for-job-seekers/ 3. Auxier, B. & Anderson, M. (2020). *As school close due to the coronavirus, some U.S. students face a digital 'homework gap.'* Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/03/16/as-schools-close-due-to-the-coronavirus-some-u-s-students-face-a-digital-homework-gap/ 4. Lacelle-Webster, A., Landry, J., & Smith, A. M. D. (2021). Citizen voice in the pandemic response: Democratic innovations from around the world. In G. Smith, T. Hughes, L. Adams, & C. Obijiaku (Eds.), Democracy in a pandemic (pp. 155-168). University of Westminster Press. https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/j.ctv1v3gqz6.24.pdf

DRAFT | PRE-DECISIONAL

Other Digital Inclusion Activities to Consider...

- Digital skills or digital literacy
  - Workshops
  - Courses
  - One-on-one sessions
- Workforce development training (computer/ digital skills focused)
- Job search training or assistance that includes digital skills/product development (i.e. resumes, etc.)
- STEM/STEAM training
- Coding schools, certifications, or training
- Technical certifications

Let's talk...

What's Already Happening In Your Community?	**What's Needed Most In Your Community?**
What Does This Community NEED To Make That Happen?	**What Does Success Look Like For Your Community?**

Existing Resources To Consider

- Asset Maps/Asset Inventories
  - State Digital Equity Plans
  - Connect Arizona (Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records)
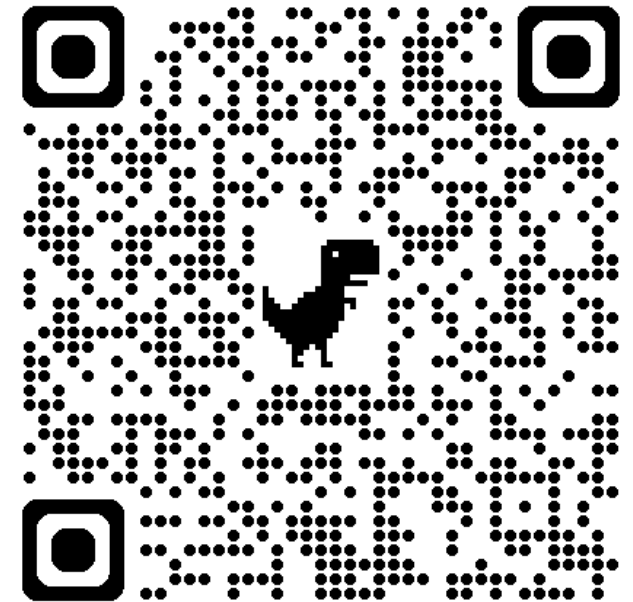 - AZ-1 (Arizona State University)

Arizona State Broadband Office Engagement Opportunities

In-person visits:
- Connect with all 22 Tribal Nations and Communities
- Connect with all 15 counties
- July, August: Eastern, Western, Southwest AZ

Virtual Webinars (Zoom):
- BEAD Local Government: July 16, 11:00am
- BEAD Tribal Communities: July 16, 2:00pm
- Digital Equity, July 16, 3:00pm
- BEAD Internet Service Providers: July 30, 11:00am

https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/arizona-broadband-equity-access-deployment-program/upcoming-webinars/
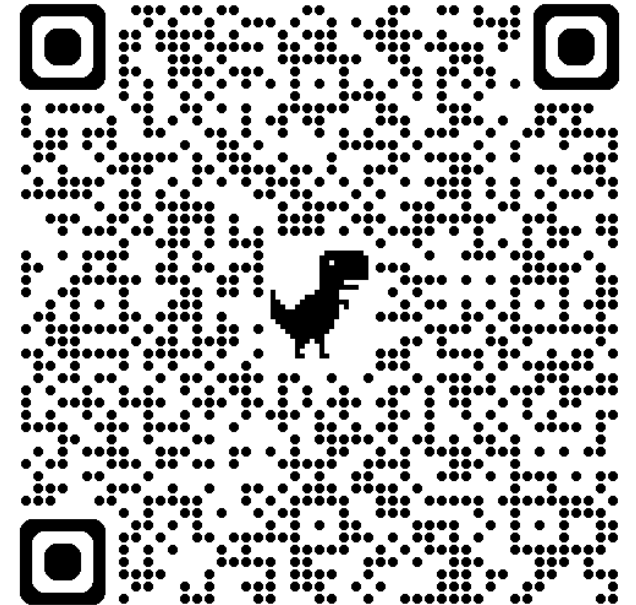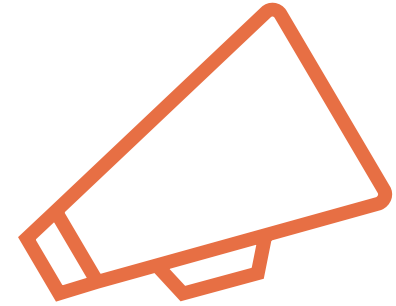
Join us – Register Today!

BEAD and Digital Equity Forum for Internet Service Providers

Friday, August 9, 2024
10:00am – 2:00pm MST
IN PERSON @ ACA Offices, downtown Phoenix

Purpose: bring ISPs who plan to apply for BEAD funds to discuss the next phases of the BEAD and Digital Equity programs, explore strategies and potential project areas

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arizona-state-broadband-office-bead-local-government-forum-tickets-939181636557?aff=oddtdtcreator

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