



## Overview

The goal of the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program is to fund programs that ensure communities have the access and skills to fully participate in the digital world, regardless of their background or circumstances. This program will complement digital equity activities funded by the Capacity Grant Program.

This is the first funding opportunity from the **\$1.25 billion Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program**, the third of the three Digital Equity Act programs. The Digital Equity Act provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion.

Below you can find links to materials that will help you as you're getting ready to develop and submit your application. We will continue adding materials as more information becomes available, so bookmark this page and check back frequently for updates.

### Get Ready Materials

Get tips on how to prepare for the upcoming funding opportunity.

[Digital Equity Act at a Glance](#)

## Application Information

### Application Details Coming Soon

### What can potential applicants do right now?

#### Set up your Accounts

You **MUST** have an active [SAM.gov](#) and UEI to **register to access** the NTIA Grants Portal (NGP) to apply. **These items can take weeks or months to set up**, so get started as soon as possible.

- Create or verify an **active [SAM.gov](#) registration** and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number.
- **Register for access to the Application Portal.** You will NOT be able to access the application portal without this.
- **Decide early who needs access.** Make sure members of your grant team have the right level of access.
- Make sure usernames and passwords for all relevant accounts (e.g., [SAM.gov](#), NGP, etc.) are accessible and current to avoid last-minute issues.

## Get Organized

In order to have time to prepare, review, and submit your application ahead of the due date, you need to get organized and plan ahead.

- **Prepare early:** Make sure your team is in place and ready to get started on your application as soon as the NOFO is announced.
- **Submit early:** Aim to submit the application ahead of the due date to avoid last-minute technical issues and to demonstrate professionalism and preparedness. Plan ahead! DO NOT wait until the application deadline to submit your applications.
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- Things to do now: Get to know the federal forms needed to apply: [SF-424](#), [SF-LLL](#), [CD-511](#).

## Build Partnerships

Partnerships can enhance an application by providing diverse expertise, increasing credibility, and extending a project's reach.

- **Leverage Expertise for [Covered Populations](#):** Leveraging the expertise of those partners with a proven track record of serving Covered Populations can help strengthen the project's ability to effectively reach and serve those groups.
- **Collaborate on Proposal Development:** Work together with partners to develop a strong, cohesive proposal. Leverage each partner's strengths in drafting sections, gathering data, and providing insights.

## Who Can Apply

Eligible entities include:

1. A political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a State, including an agency of a State, including an agency of a State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing, in the State;
2. An Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization
3. A foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is not-for-profit entity and not a school;
4. A community anchor institution;
5. A local educational agency;
6. An entity that carries out a workforce development program; or
7. A partnership between any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (6). **47 U.S.C. §1724(b).**

For additional details, check out 47 USC 1724: Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program ([house.gov](https://www.house.gov)).

# Digital Equity Act at a Glance



The third grant program funded by the Digital Equity Act of 2021 is the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. The information below can guide organizations as they [Get Ready](#) to prepare their applications.

## Understanding the DE Competitive Grant Program: What You Need to Know

The Digital Equity Act programs focus on empowering those most impacted by the digital divide, referred to as “Covered Populations.” The Covered Populations are:

(1) Individuals who live in Covered Households (defined as households with income from the most recently completed year of not more than 150% of the poverty level); (2) Aging individuals; (3) Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility; (4) Veterans; (5) Individuals with disabilities; (6) Individuals with a language barrier, including English learners and those with low levels of literacy; (7) Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and (8) Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area. [47 USC 1721\(8\)](#)

### Who Can Apply?

As long as applicants are not, or have not, served as the administering entity for a State under the Planning Grant Program or Capacity Grant Program, the following types of groups are eligible to apply:

- A political subdivision, agency or instrumentality of a State;
- An Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization;
- A foundation, corporation, institute or association that is a not-for-profit entity, and is not a school;
- A community anchor institution;
- A local education agency;
- An entity that carries out workforce development programs; or
- A partnership between any of the entities described above.

[47 U.S.C. 1724\(b\)](#)

### How Can the Grant be Used?

The grant's purpose is to create the conditions where individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States. **Allowable uses of grant awards include:**

- Developing and implementing digital inclusion activities that benefit Covered Populations.
- Facilitating the adoption of broadband by Covered Populations.
- Implementing training programs for Covered Populations.
- Making available equipment or technology for broadband services to Covered Populations.
- Constructing, upgrading, extending, or operating new or existing public access computing centers for Covered Populations.

[47 U.S.C. 1724\(d\)\(2\)\(A\)](#)

### What is the Match?

Awards granted through the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program **may not exceed 90 percent** of the total project cost, unless a waiver is granted by the Assistant Secretary.

[47 U.S.C. 1724\(d\)\(2\)\(C\)](#)

### What is the Period of Performance?

Recipients will have **four years** from the date of the award to expend the grant.

**One additional year** will be given to Grant recipients to continue measuring and evaluating the activities supported.

[47 U.S.C. 1724\(d\)\(2\)\(D\)](#)

To learn more about the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, see the [Digital Equity Act of 2021](#).