DIGITAL EQUITY ACT PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Where we are today...

... and where we're going

Many Americans lack access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet

America runs on high-speed internet. A strong internet connection powers our economy and supports education. It fosters better public health. And, it connects loved ones and strengthens social ties. But not everyone is connected. Too many Americans are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed internet makes possible. That's why we're working to bring high-speed internet to all Americans.

The Digital Equity Act includes $2.75B to drive digital inclusion and equity

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Digital Equity Act Programs are planning and implementation programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives. The three programs include two state formula programs and one competitive program.

Select Digital Equity programs details

Three federal grant programs

1. **State Planning Program:** A $60M formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans.
2. **State Capacity Program:** A $1.44 billion formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments. It will fund an annual grant program for five years in support of digital equity projects and the implementation of digital equity plans.
   Note: US territories other than Puerto Rico and Tribal / Native entities have separate funding allocations and different programmatic requirements for the State Planning and Capacity Programs
3. **Competitive Program:** A $1.25 billion competitive grant program. It will fund an annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects. Several types of entities can apply for these funds.

Example eligible uses of funds

1. Develop, implement, and oversee digital equity plans
2. Make awards to other entities to help in developing digital equity plans
3. Improve the online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
4. Implement digital equity plans and digital inclusion activities
5. Provide digital literacy and skills education to covered populations
6. Facilitate the adoption of high-speed Internet by covered populations

Timeline

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

NOFO live 5/13   Due 7/12

Comp. Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards

2022   2023   2024   2025   2026+

Digital Equity

Plan app → 1-year state planning

State cap. app → 5-year state capacity implementation

Comp. app → 4-year competitive implement.