

# Advancing Digital Equity: Roles for Research & Education Institutions

Internet2 Community  
Exchange  
May 10, 2023



**Aaron Schill, Director of Research & Programs**

**[digitalinclusion.org](https://digitalinclusion.org) | [@netinclusion](https://twitter.com/netinclusion)**



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# About NDIA

National Digital Inclusion Alliance advances digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act.

1250+

Affiliates

50

States + DC,  
Puerto Rico &  
Virgin Islands

12

Tribal  
Entities



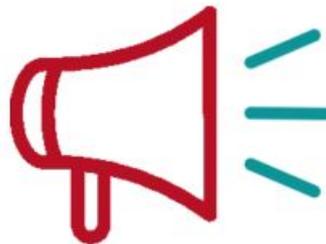
# About NDIA



**Practitioner Support**



**Policy**



**Awareness**



**Data & Research**

# About Digital Inclusion

## DIGITAL EQUITY

Individuals and communities have the capacity for full participation in society, democracy, and the economy.

## DIGITAL INCLUSION

The activities to ensure that all individuals, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of:

- Affordable home broadband
- Appropriate devices
- Digital literacy
- Tech support
- Applications

# Why 'Digital Equity'?

EQUALITY



EQUITY



# Key Barriers to Digital Inclusion



## BROADBAND

- ✗ Unaffordable
- ✗ Unreliable service
- ✗ Digital Redlining
- ✗ Complicated by land ownership rights on Tribal Lands



## DEVICES

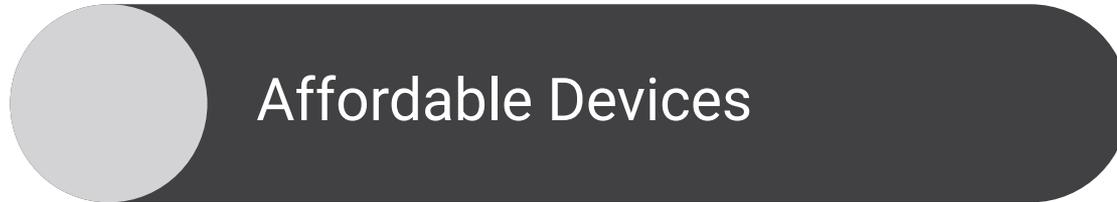
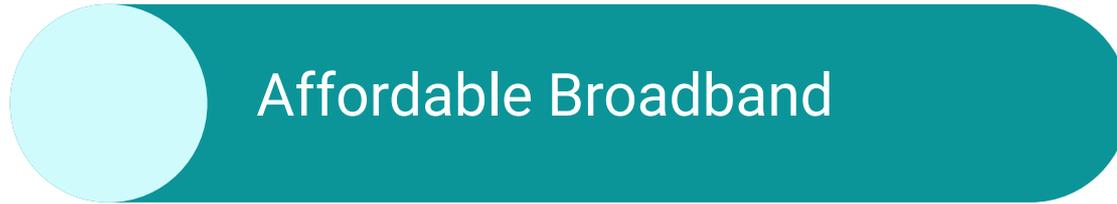
- ✗ Unaffordable
- ✗ Outdated software
- ✗ No access to device
- ✗ Device is not matching the needs of the user



## DIGITAL SKILLS

- ✗ Limited digital skills
- ✗ Trainings are not accessible
- ✗ Fear & shame
- ✗ Privacy concerns

# The Solution



# Temple University

## Device Refurbishing & Distribution Services

- [Computer Recycling Center](#)
- Refurbished electronics made available to students, faculty, & staff

The screenshot shows the login page for the Temple University Information Technology Services Surplus Electronics Webstore. The page is divided into two main sections: 'WELCOME' and 'LOGIN'. The 'WELCOME' section features a header 'SURPLUS ELECTRONICS WEBSTORE' and a main image of various electronic devices (printer, tower PC, monitor) with a recycling symbol in the bottom left corner. The 'LOGIN' section contains a welcome message, contact information, and a login form with fields for 'AccessNet username' and 'AccessNet password', a 'Login' button, and links for 'Login help' and 'Eligibility'. At the bottom, there is location information and copyright text.

Temple University  
Information Technology Services

WELCOME

SURPLUS ELECTRONICS WEBSTORE

Welcome to the Surplus Electronics Webstore, powered by OWLtech. In store visits are by appointment only. If you have any questions about any of our products or services, please contact us at 215-204-4118 or [crcsales@temple.edu](mailto:crcsales@temple.edu)

AccessNet username:

AccessNet password:

Login

[Login help](#) [Eligibility](#)

Located in the OWLtech Store 1800 N Broad St  
215-204-6958 - [crcsales@temple.edu](mailto:crcsales@temple.edu) - [crc.temple.edu](http://crc.temple.edu)

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# Alliance for Navajo Broadband



## *Alliance for Navajo Broadband*



*We are dedicated to improving broadband access, affordability, and choices for the Navajo people.*

- Diné College & Navajo Technical University partnering with providers
- Courses designed to build awareness & capacity among Tribal leadership
- Diné College student hired to do outreach & enroll participants
- Currently in NM, plans to expand to AZ & UT

# North Carolina Central University

## Digital Equity Leadership Program

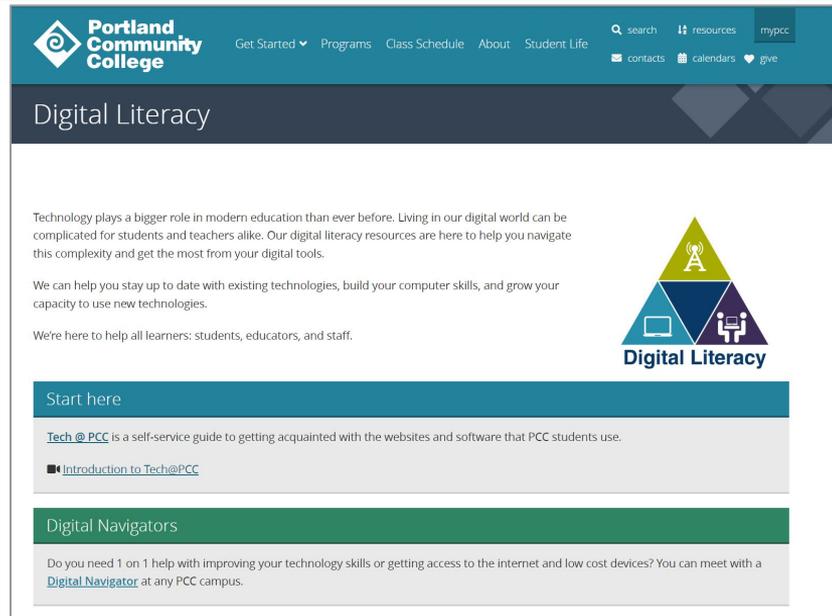
- Digital equity support on campus and in anchor communities
- Four Core Activities
  - Digital equity assessment & planning
  - Digital equity training
  - Community engagement & service
  - Evaluation
- Connecting Minority Communities Grant



# Portland Community College

## Digital Literacy Resources & Digital Navigators

- Serves students, faculty & staff
- Self-serve online trainings & resources
- Currently hiring digital navigators at all 4 campus libraries



**Portland Community College** Get Started Programs Class Schedule About Student Life search resources mypcc contacts calendars give

### Digital Literacy

Technology plays a bigger role in modern education than ever before. Living in our digital world can be complicated for students and teachers alike. Our digital literacy resources are here to help you navigate this complexity and get the most from your digital tools.

We can help you stay up to date with existing technologies, build your computer skills, and grow your capacity to use new technologies.

We're here to help all learners: students, educators, and staff.



**Digital Literacy**

#### Start here

[Tech @ PCC](#) is a self-service guide to getting acquainted with the websites and software that PCC students use.

- [Introduction to Tech@PCC](#)

#### Digital Navigators

Do you need 1 on 1 help with improving your technology skills or getting access to the internet and low cost devices? You can meet with a [Digital Navigator](#) at any PCC campus.

# Digital Navigators

The image features a solid teal background. In the center, the words "Digital Navigators" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Behind the text, there are faint, semi-transparent icons: a hand holding a smartphone with a Wi-Fi signal above it, and large, stylized letters "N", "D", and "A" in the background.

**Digital Navigators** consistently provide holistic, individualized support through repeated interactions.



Affordable Broadband



Appropriate Devices



Digital Skills Training



# Drexel University ExCITe Center

## Digital Navigator Program

- Focused on West Philadelphia Promise Zone
- Leverages university's capacity - Drexel & UPenn undergrads, refurbishing, procurement, age-friendly program
- Local partnerships - city & school district

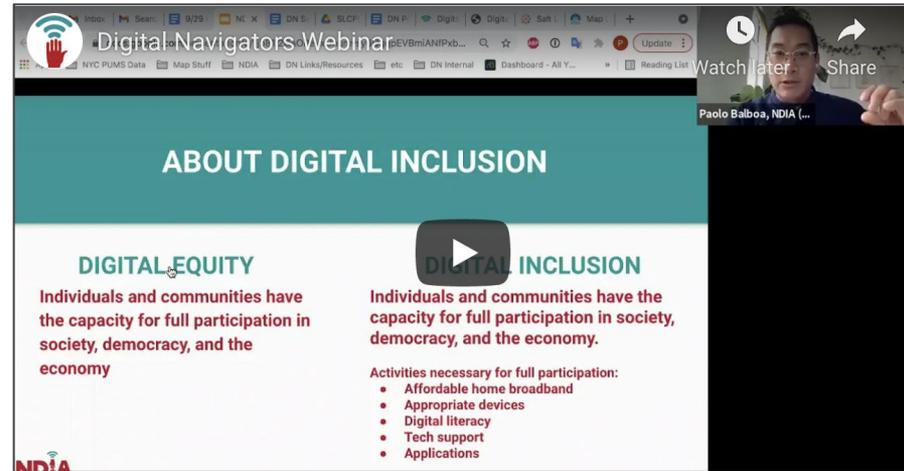


The screenshot displays the website for the Drexel University ExCITe Center, specifically the Digital Navigators program page. The header features the Drexel University logo and the ExCITe Center name, along with navigation links for INNOVATION, LEARNING, COMMUNITY, NEWS AND EVENTS, and ABOUT. The main content area is titled "DIGITAL NAVIGATORS" and includes a sub-header "Working to improve digital inclusion in the West Philadelphia Promise Zone." Below this, there are images of people using computers and a call-to-action button that says "Call a Digital Navigator Today!". A sidebar on the left lists "COMMUNITY" categories: Action for Early Learning, Civic Technology, Digital Navigators (highlighted), Digital Inclusion Resources, and Promise Neighborhood. A sidebar on the right provides "CONTACT INFO" with contact details and a note about additional information available on the Digital Resource page.

# NDIA Resource: Digital Navigator Page

Visit [NDIA's Digital Navigator Model](#) page to learn more about the open, flexible model & access:

- Skills Assessment
- Follow-up Survey
- Baseline Digital Navigator Job Description
- Intake Form & Exit Survey
- Digital Navigator Toolkit



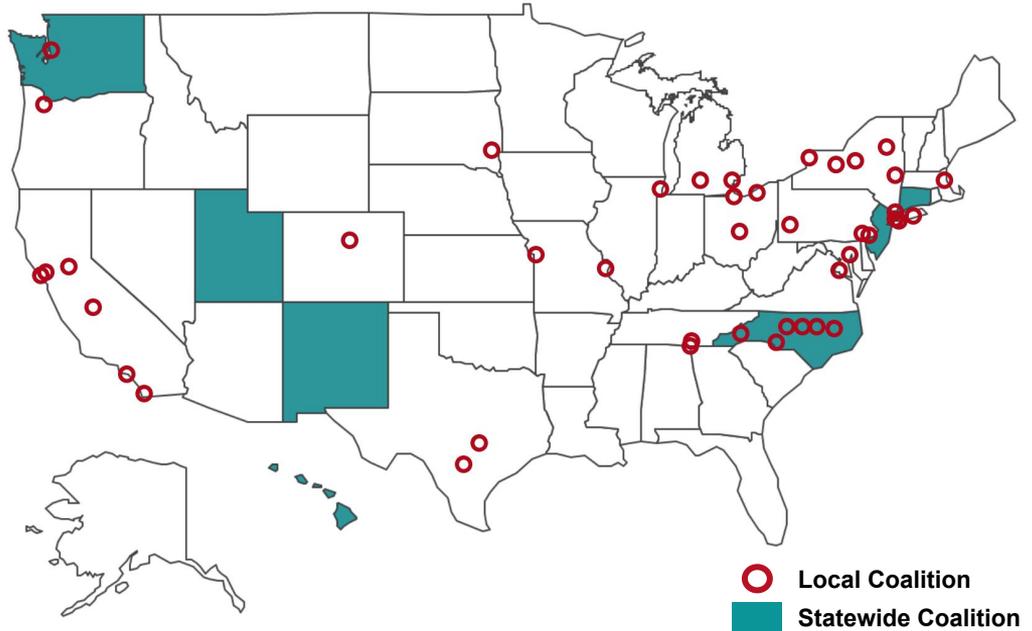
Watch Now: [Digital Navigators Webinar](#)

# Coalitions



# Digital Inclusion Coalitions

- Are a **collective** of organizations
- To **align & enhance efforts** of those working on digital inclusion
- To raise **funding** for digital inclusion programs
- To **raise awareness** about digital inequities and the impact on your communities



# Center for Digital Equity (CDE) at Queens University

## Coalition Leadership

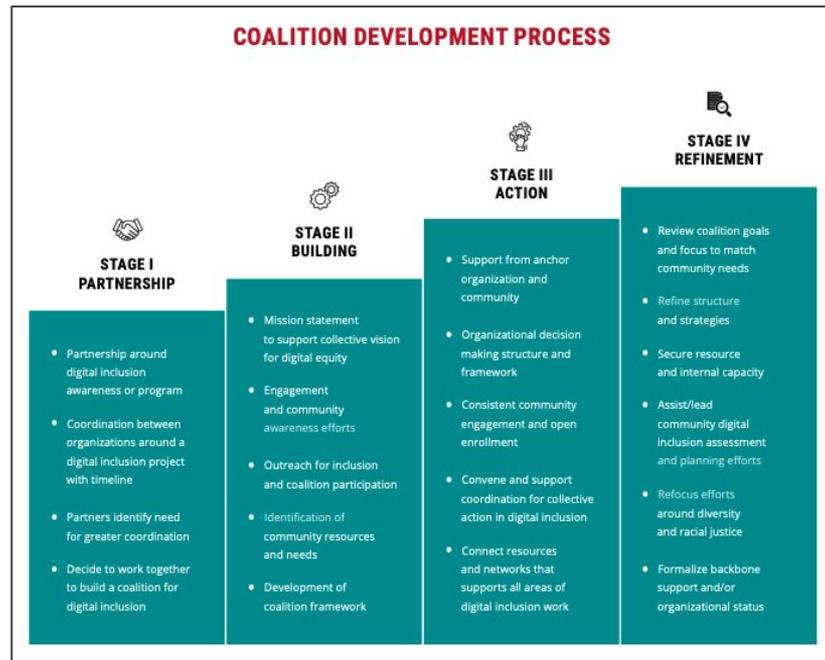
- University is backbone organization
- Philanthropic endowment supports staff & operations; public & private funding for programmatic work
- Led by Advisory Board & Community Council



# Digital Inclusion Coalition Guidebook

Our [Digital Inclusion Coalition Guidebook](#) provides an in-depth look at successful models across coalitions.

- How coalitions form and are structured
- Keys to successful coalition operations
- Ways coalitions adapt over time



**Policy**



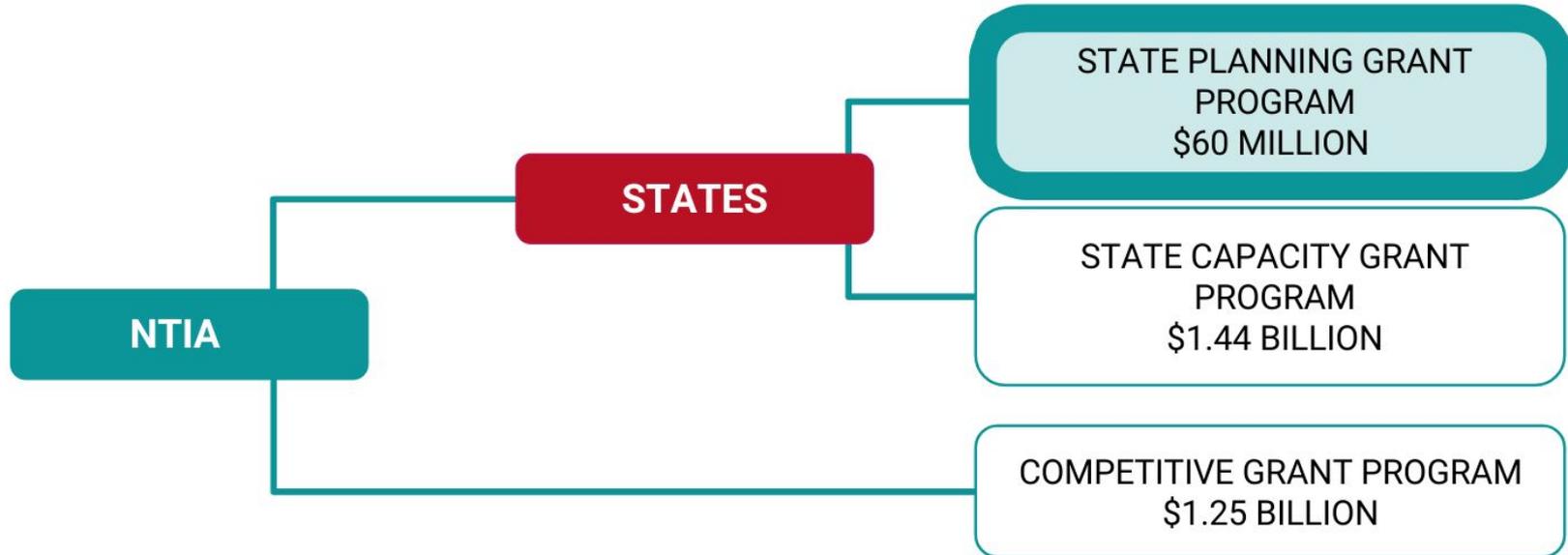
# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law: \$65 Billion

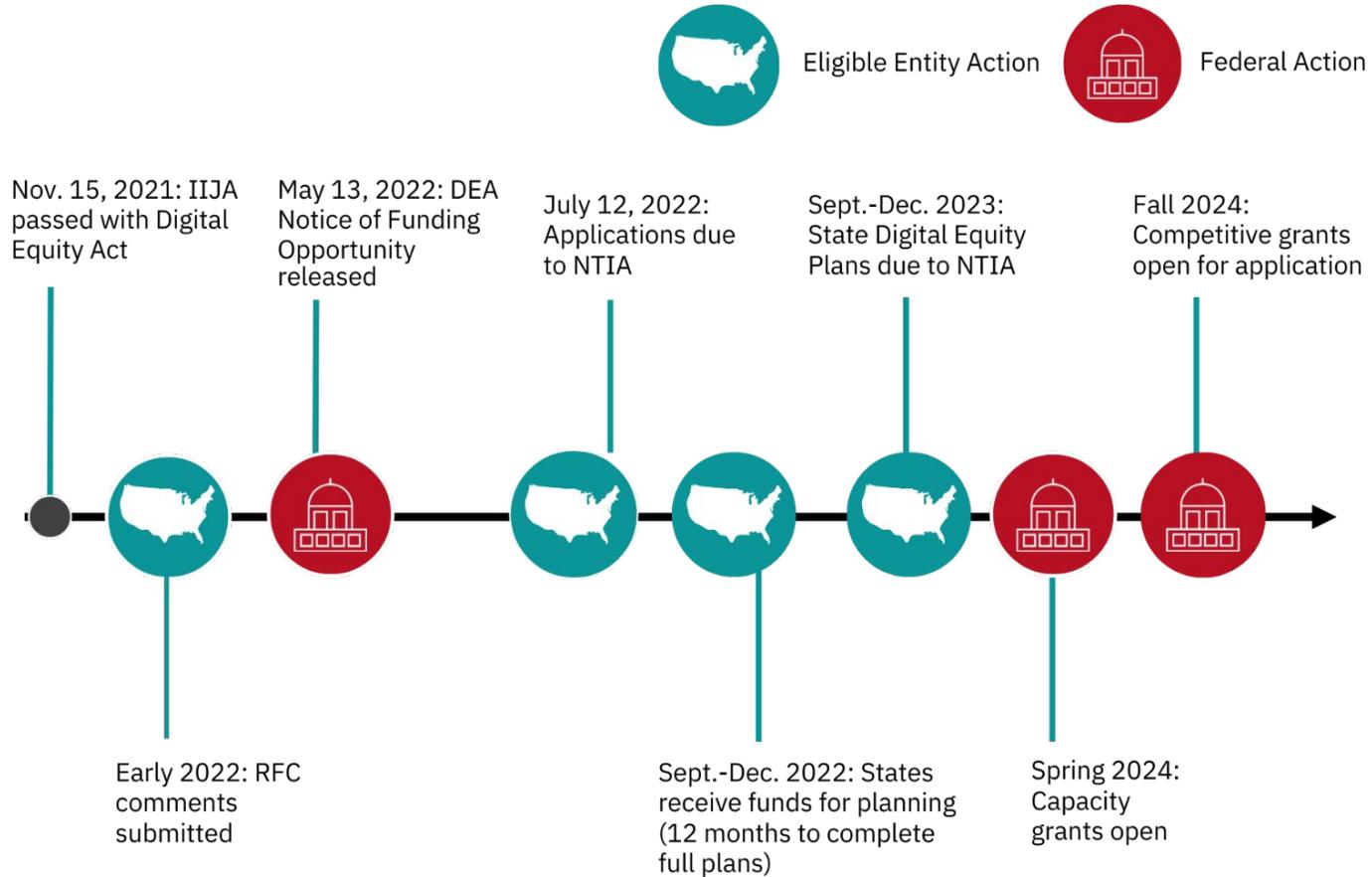
- **Digital Equity Act-\$2.75B**
- Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program-\$42.5B
- Affordable Connectivity Program-\$14.2B
- Tribal Connectivity Program-\$2B
- Middle Mile Connectivity-\$1B
- Digital Discrimination section



# Digital Equity Act Programs



# TIMELINE



# State Digital Equity Planning

## Purdue University

- Leading State of Indiana planning process
- Data & analyses to several states



## Northern Iowa University

- Supporting data collection and community engagement for Iowa's planning process



## University of Louisiana-Lafayette

- Led Louisiana's process - data collection & community engagement



# NDIA Resource: State Digital Equity Plan Toolkit

The **State Digital Equity Plan Toolkit** is the essential guide for states, territories, and DC, working on a state digital equity plan.

## What to expect inside:

- General recommendations to consider for the entire planning process
- Suggested outline for your plan
- Tactical recommendations for building a digital equity plan



**STATE  
DIGITAL  
EQUITY  
PLAN  
TOOLKIT**



# NTIA Internet For All Map

- NTIA Federal Program Officer contact info
- State Broadband Office contact info
- Fund allocations, status, & timeline of states' participation in federal funding programs

## INTERNET FOR ALL MAP

### Program Progress by State & Territory

Digital Equity (DE) ▾

Georgia ▾



#### PROGRAM STATUS

Digital Equity Act (DE)

STATUS	STATE/ TERRITORY
Planning Application Drafting	56
Planning Application Submitted	56
Planning Grant Awarded	52

# Affordability Connectivity Program (ACP)

**Program Administrator:** Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

**Total Allocated:** \$14.2 Billion

- \$30/month benefit
- \$75/month Tribal benefit

[fcc.gov/acp](https://fcc.gov/acp)

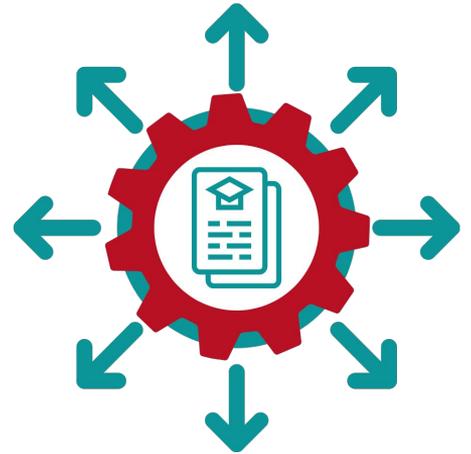




# Digital Equity Research & Data

# Digital Equity Research

- Michigan State University - [Johannes Bauer](#)
- Purdue University - [Roberto Gallardo](#)
- University of Southern California - [Hernan Galperin](#)
- Arizona State University - [Karen Mossberger](#)
- University of Texas at Austin - [Sharon Stover](#)
- University of Washington - [Stacey Wedlake](#)
- Oklahoma State University - [Brian Whitacre](#)



# Southern Rural Development Center

## Advancing Digital Equity in the Rural South

- Focused on role university extension programs can play in advancing digital equity in rural communities
- Key digital equity initiatives
  - Bridging the Digital Divide in Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Communities in the South
  - National Digital Education Extension Team (NDEET)





**Research &  
Education Networks  
Tackling Digital  
Equity**

# MERIT's Michigan Moonshot

## Deep Investment in Digital Equity

- Community network planning tools & grant funding
- Statewide data collection & research
- Public Wi-Fi & statewide middle mile fiber buildout
- Community engagement (annual summit, webinars, etc.)



# Link Oregon

## Collaborating to Meet Statewide, Tribal, & Rural Digital Equity Needs

- Host Oregon's crowdsourced broadband mapping initiative, Faster Internet Oregon
- Facilitated 3 Oregon Tribal Broadband Summits with the 9 recognized Tribes
- Convene the 7-state Western States Broadband Alliance



LINK OREGON



Oregon State  
University



<https://www.fasterinternetoregon.org>

# North Carolina Shared Research & Education Collaborative Infrastructure (NCShare)

## Advancing Digital Equity in Higher Education

- Extending high-speed research network capacity to minority-serving, small, & mid-sized institutions
- Lowers cost & barriers to access to research computing resources
- Funded through NSF grant



<https://ncshare.org>

# Join the NDIA Community

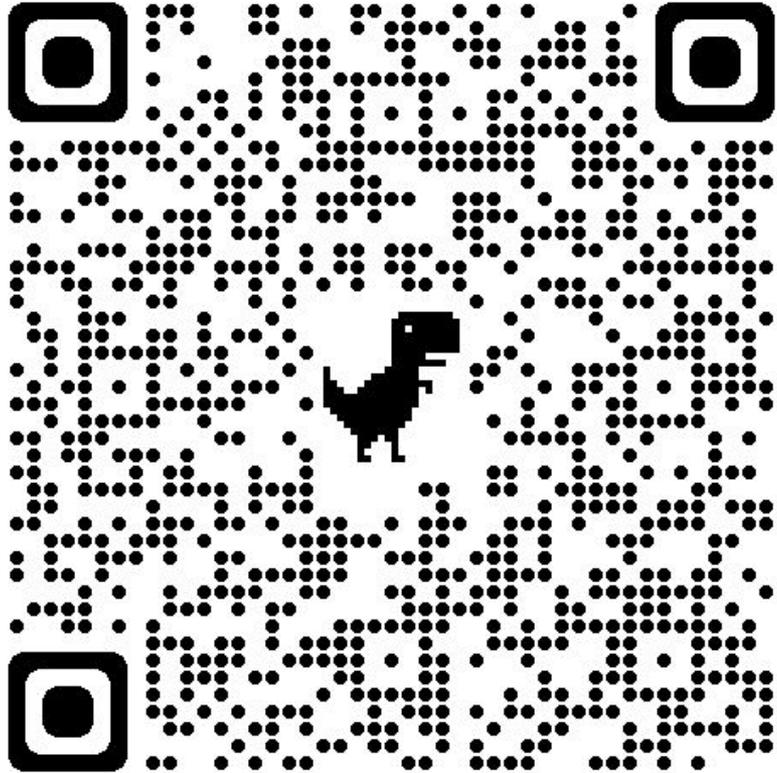


Become an Affiliate and get free access to:

- ✓ NDIA listserv with free resources, research and tools
- ✓ Monthly Community Calls
- ✓ Monthly Newsletter



Join NDIA: [digitalinclusion.org/join/](https://digitalinclusion.org/join/)



**SCAN FOR  
NDIA  
RESOURCES**



[digitalinclusion.org](http://digitalinclusion.org) | [@netinclusion](https://twitter.com/netinclusion)

**THANK  
YOU!**

