NH Workforce Development & Digital Equity

Exploring opportunities for collaboration & impact on intergenerational poverty

Friday September 15th, 2023   10 am

aims

1. Orient NH's workforce development (WFD) leaders to resources available to NH under Digital Equity Act

- BEAD funding for broadband access and digital equity

2. Explore how $20+ million in federal DE funding over next 4 years can best support your efforts to ensure

- Digital access for all participants and their WFD providers
- Digital skills for all participants and their WFP providers
- Digital pedagogy: enhancing instructional skills of providers to engage participants in online and hybrid learning
- Access to robust tools for competency-based assessments, microcredentialing and e-portfolio
- Awareness of NH's diverse eligible learners about the availability, affordability and benefits of your programs

Welcome and introductions

Brief orientation to BEAD funding
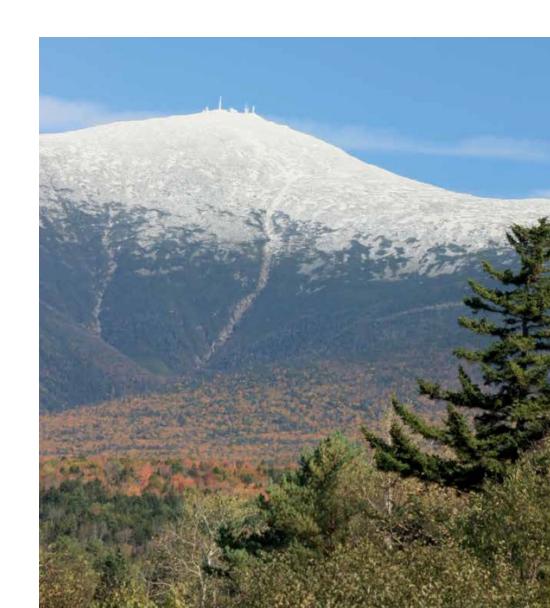
New Hampshire

Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment

BEAD

New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) is the Administering Entity for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Grant.

This grant is provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

- **What does this mean for New Hampshire?**

NH is allotted $196.56M when approved by NTIA

The BEAD funding will be used to deploy or upgrade broadband networks to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet service.

Once deployment goals are met, any remaining funding can be used to pursue eligible access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses.

Project Scope of Work

- Develop 5-Year Action Plan

- Develop Initial Proposal
  - Volume I
  - Volume II

- Develop Final Proposal

All documents will be posted for public comment; https://www.nheconomy.com/office-of-broadband-initiatives and we request your input.

You may also receive an e-mail as a reminder to review and comment on these documents. broadband@livefree.nh.gov.

Statewide Public Survey

The Goal: To gather needs assessment data on five federally-established objectives for entire population, with a focus on the groups most affected by digital inequalities.

Questions are focused on gathering data on the digital equity needs and interests of individuals and households across the state.

Access The Survey: bit.ly/NHdigitalequitysurvey

Everyone deserves access to affordable, high-speed Internet.

Take the New Hampshire Digital Equity Survey now!

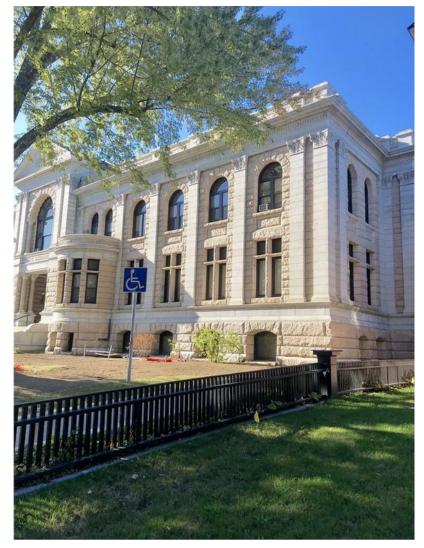Learn about the state's Digital Equity Plan: NHdigitalequity.org

NH | Extension

NCDE
National Collaborative for Digital Equity

Digital Equity Research Center

Asset Inventory

The Goal: To document the community assets that exist across the state (i.e., public libraries, other community-based organizations, etc.)

Questions are focused on gathering data on how organizations support the five federally-established objectives for entire population, with a focus on the groups most affected by digital inequalities.

Get added to the Inventory: bit.ly/NHassetinventory

https://www.flickr.com/photos/warrenlemay/49211375371

Dimensions of digital equity the funding to NH can support

- Affordable <u>broadband</u>

- Free donor-funded refurbished and new <u>laptops</u> bundled with drive image pointing to systemic inclusion resources

- <u>Multilingual tech support</u> provided by New Americans & other English Learners, for learners of all ages (Pre-K/parents through seniors)

- <u>Digital, media, information & financial literacy and cybersafety skill</u> development and skills to use *AI* safely, effectively and ethically

- Sustained conversation among educators at all levels fostering **digital access**, **digital skill** and **digital pedagogy** for all NH learners and their educators

- <u>More inclusive, accessible info referral</u> for essential inclusion supports

- <u>Professional development</u> and <u>curriculum development</u> funds to WFD leaders and their partners

Time to dig deep and dream boldly

We're exploring exciting possibilities:

- Funding to build capacity of educators at many levels
  - PK12
  - Afterschool
  - Adult education
  - CCSNH

To

- Require every learner enrolled for ACP broadband subsidy, have a laptop
- Require every learner develop digital, media, information & financial lit and cybersafety skills, and skills using AI safely effectively & ethically
- Strengthen skills of all educators to provide competency-based learning facilitation and performance assessments
- Develop/strengthen e-portfolio tools for competency-based industry recognized credentias

What are the digital divide barriers that most concern you?

How might digital equity funds best enhance your capacity to equip all learners with digital skills?

In AI age we're entering, new career pathways into digital-age careers you most want to build or existing ones to strengthen?

Next steps

Please kindly encourage folks to

- Complete the digital equity survey
- Briefly profile themselves in the Asset Inventory
- Register for coming digital equity/BEAD planning events via www.NHdigitalequity.org

We'll send you a copy of this side show and the webinar recording link

Thanks you very much!

For more info:

Bob McLaughlin

Executive director

National Collaborative for Digital Equity

1.802.249.1159

https://calendly.com/rmclaughlin1