

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

PRESS RELEASE

## State Of Alaska

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## **Alaska Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Announced**

**Friday, December 13, 2024 (Anchorage, AK)** – Today, the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) announced the opening of the Alaska Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program.

The ABO received a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA), of which \$3.45 million will be made available for the in-state grant program. This is the first of three tranches of Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding the ABO will receive.

The Alaska Digital Equity Grant program will provide funding to eligible entities proposing projects that will implement aspects of the <u>Alaska Digital Equity Plan</u>. These projects will work to eliminate barriers preventing Alaskans within the covered populations, identified in the Digital Equity Act of 2021, from meaningfully using the internet.

"This program will provide much-needed federal funding to organizations working closely with Alaskans requiring assistance with use and adoption of the internet for access to civic, healthcare, education, social, and economic opportunities" said **Lisa Von Bargen, Deputy Director** of the ABO.

The ABO will begin accepting applications immediately through the 120-day application period ending on April 11, 2025. The application review process will last another 90 days with award notifications expected in July of 2025. Information on the Alaska Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program – including the Notice of Funding Opportunity, the grant application, and access to the online application portal – can be found on the ABO webpage at <a href="https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/">https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/</a>.

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