

Alaska Broadband Office Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant

Virtual Office Hours Session 6



Lisa Von Bargaen, Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DE Virtual Office Hours Session 6

March 11, 2025

Digital Equity Programs Overview



Federal Digital Equity Programs

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

- Digital Equity Planning Grant
- State Digital Equity Capacity Grant
- Digital Equity Competitive Grant
- State Digital Equity Capacity Grant: Native Entities
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)



Digital Equity Overview

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Digital Equity Planning Grant



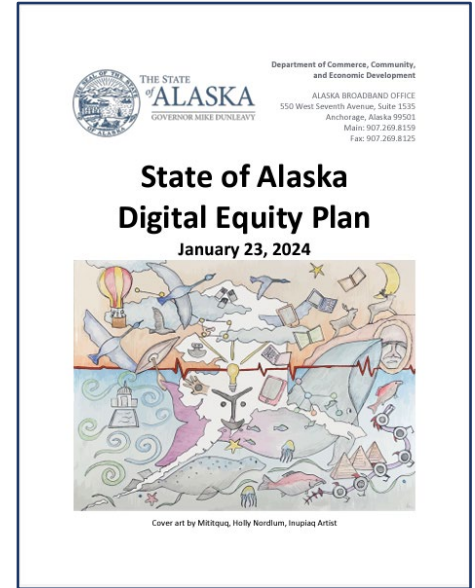
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Federal Digital Equity Programs

DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING GRANT

- \$60 Million Nationwide
- Alaska Awarded \$567,800
- Alaska Digital Equity Plan approved by NTIA March 14, 2024

“Every Alaskan, as part of their quality of life, will have the digital tools, access, and skills to affordably participate online, wherever they are.”



Digital Equity Overview

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Federal Digital Equity Programs

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY CAPACITY GRANT

- \$1.44 Billion Nationwide
- Alaska Application approved by NTIA November 5, 2024
- Alaska FFY24 Funding: \$5,631,770
- Five-Year Period of Performance is December 1, 2024 – November 30, 2029
- Alaska FFY 2025 Estimated: \$1,877,257
- Alaska FFY 2026 Estimated: \$1,877,257



Digital Equity Overview

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

ALASKA'S PROGRAM OF WORK

- Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program
- Baseline Surveys
- Comprehensive Update to the Alaska Digital Equity Plan



Digital Equity Overview

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Digital Equity Competitive Grant



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Federal Digital Equity Programs

DIGITAL EQUITY COMPETITIVE GRANT

- \$1.25 Billion Nationwide
- Application Deadline to NTIA was September 23, 2024
- Award Announcements in Progress
- Alaska Awards as of January 17, 2025
 - Anchorage School District: \$11.7 million
 - Atautchikun, LLC: \$7.9 million
 - Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc.: \$7.9 million
 - Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc. (AK 1/33 States): \$10.7 million
 - National Digital Inclusion Alliance (AK 1/10 States): \$25.7 million
 - National Lead for America, Inc. (AK 1/13 States): \$12 million



Digital Equity Overview

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant: Native Entities



Federal Digital Equity Programs

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY CAPACITY GRANT: NATIVE ENTITIES

- FFY24 Nationwide Set Aside: \$45,300,000
- Competitive Capacity and Planning Grant Program
- Applications due to NTIA February 7, 2025



Digital Equity Overview

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

GRANT PROGRAM PURPOSE

To implement aspects of the Alaska Digital Equity Plan.



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Agencies of the State of Alaska
- Political Subdivisions of the State of Alaska
- Alaska Tribal Governments
- Alaska Native Entities
- Indian Tribes
- School Districts
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Community Anchor Institutions



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

KEY DATES/PROGRAM TIMELINE

- NOFO Published: December 13, 2024
- Application Period: December 13, 2024 – April 12, 2025
- Application Review Period: April 14 - July 14, 2025
- Notice of Grant Awards: July 15, 2025
- Subawardee Project Activity: July 16, 2025 - August 31, 2029
- Subgrant/Project Monitoring: July 16, 2025 – August 31, 2029
- Subawardee Performance Reports: October 2025 – August 2029 (Quarterly)



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SCHEDULE

Virtual Office Hours

- December 30, 2024
- January 14, 2025
- January 27, 2025
- ~~February 12, 2025~~
- February 24, 2025
- March 11, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- April 7, 2025

In-Person Technical Assistance Workshops

Juneau – January 24, 2025

Anchorage – February 12, 2025



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.1. LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS, AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2.1.a. Alaska Business and Corporate Licenses (Active & In Good Standing)
- 2.1.b. SAM.gov Registration and UEI (Active)
- 2.1.c. Debarment and Suspension Certifications (Appendix A)
- 2.1.d. Compliance with Applicable Laws (Narrative)
- 2.1.e. Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance (Appendix B)
- 2.1.f. State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Compliance (Appendix C)



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.2. PROJECT PURPOSE, NEED, AND BENEFITS

- 2.2.a. Project Description (Narrative)
- 2.2.b. Purpose and Need Description (Narrative)
- 2.2.c. Covered Populations Served (Narrative)
- 2.2.d. Relevance to Alaska Digital Equity Plan (Narrative)
- 2.2.e. Direct and Indirect Benefits to the Covered Populations (Narrative)



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.2.C. COVERED POPULATIONS SERVED

- 2.2.c.i. Number of different identifiable Covered Populations served;
- 2.2.c.i.i. Number of unique individuals within each identifiable Covered Population;
- 2.2.c.i.i.i. Number of unique individuals identifying concurrently as a member of more than one Covered Population.



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.2.C. EXAMPLE ANSWER

Example:

Project will benefit residents of an independent living senior center in a small rural community.

Answers:

2.2.c.i. Seven identifiable Covered Populations will be served including Aging individuals, Veterans, Individuals living in covered households, Individuals with disabilities, Individuals with a language barrier, Members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and Individuals residing primarily in a rural area.

2.2.c.i.i. Total project beneficiaries is 100 (total number of facility residents).

2.2.c.i.i.i. Aging individuals: 100. Veterans: 6. Individuals living in covered households: 32. Individuals with disabilities: 17. Individuals with a language barrier: 10. Members of a racial or ethnic minority group: 25. Individuals residing primarily in a rural areas: 100.



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.2.D. RELEVANCE TO ALASKA DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

- Identify **how** the project will address goals, strategies, KPIs, or action items of the **Alaska Digital Equity Plan** and **Alaska Broadband Workforce Development Plan**.
- Identify **how** the project will address alignment with **Other Statewide Plans** related to economic and workforce development, education, health, civic and social engagement, judicial access, and delivery of other essential services.
- Identify the **Measurable Outcomes** associated with each.



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.3. STRENGTH OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET

- 2.3.a. Timeline, Milestones, and Tasks (Narrative)
- 2.3.b. Strength of Project Plan (Narrative)
- 2.3.c. Comprehensive Nature of Project (Narrative)
- 2.3.d. Project Sustainability (Narrative)
- 2.3.e. Budget Feasibility (Narrative, Appendix D, Portal Budget Summary)
 - 2.3.e.i. Indirect Costs (Appendix D and NICRA)
 - 2.3.e.i.i. Partial Funding (Narrative)
- 2.3.f. Applications for Other Funding (Narrative)



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.4. STRENGTH OF APPLICANT'S ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES

- 2.4.a. Implementation Team Expertise (Narrative, Org Chart, Position Descriptions, Resumes)
- 2.4.b. Financial Capacity (Narrative and Appendix E)
- 2.4.c. Internal Controls and Tracking (Narrative)
 - 2.4.c.i. Financial Management Policies
 - 2.4.c.ii. Fraud Prevention Policies
 - 2.4.c.iii.a. Financial System Tracking Evidence
 - 2.4.c.iii.b. Financial System Itemization Evidence
 - 2.4.c.iv. Procurement Policies
 - 2.5.c.v. Compliance with 2 CFR 200
 - 2.4.c.vi. Cybersecurity Plan (if applicable)



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.5. PROJECT RESULTS AND EVALUATION

2.5. Required Performance Measurement Information

- i. Number of Covered Populations served;
- ii. Number of people served within each Covered Population;
- iii. Total number of people served;
- iv. Goal, strategy, KPI, objective, or action item achieved;
- v. Baseline data (source)*;
- vi. Projected performance outcomes;
- vii. Actual performance outcomes.

*Alaska Broadband Office baseline data acquisition.



Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.5. PROJECT RESULTS AND EVALUATION

- 2.5.a. Alaska Digital Equity Plan Component Evaluation (Narrative)
- 2.5.b. Outcomes Alignment Evaluation (Narrative)
- 2.5.c. Outreach & Continuous Improvement Commitment (Narrative)
- 2.5.d. Human Subjects Research (Compliance)



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.5.D. HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH

15 CFR § 27.102(e)(I)

Human subject means a living individual about whom an investigator (whether professional or student) conducting research:

- (i) Obtains information...through intervention or interaction with the individual and uses, studies, or analyzes the information...; or
- (ii) Obtains, uses, studies, analyzes, or generates identifiable information...

Research means a systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.



2.5.D. HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH

Studying people to gather knowledge about a particular topic or condition, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and listening sessions.



Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.5.D. HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

15 CFR § 27.104(d) Exempt Research

(1) Research, conducted in established or commonly accepted educational settings, that specifically involves normal educational practices that are not likely to adversely impact students' opportunity to learn required educational content or the assessment of educators who provide instruction. This includes most research on regular and special education instructional strategies, and research on the effectiveness of or the comparison among instructional techniques, curricula, or classroom management methods.



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.5.D. HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

15 CFR § 27.104(d) Exempt Research

(2) Research that **only includes** interactions involving **educational tests** (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), **survey procedures**, **interview procedures**, or **observation of public behavior** (including visual or auditory recording) if at least one of the following criteria is met:

(i) The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the **identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained**, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects; or

(ii) Any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research would **not reasonably place the subjects at risk** of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation.



Program Application Instructions & Requirements

2.5.D. HUMAN SUBJECT RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

April 12, 2025 (Grant application deadline)

Applicants submit detailed description of:

1. Planned or anticipated HSR survey, interview, listening session, or focus group activity related to the evaluation of Performance/Outcomes Measurements, and Outreach.
2. Acknowledgement that no HSR activity will take place until approval from NTIA has been received.

August 29, 2025 (45 days from Award Announcements)

ABO submits HSR letter to NTIA:

1. Which HSR classification category is applicable; and
2. Examples of planned DE project activities that justify inclusion in that category.



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Question & Answer Session



Thank You.

