DRAFT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Internet for All in Washington

Washington state has developed a statewide Draft Digital Equity Plan to map out how to bring internet connectivity and the skills needed to benefit from it to all Washingtonians.

This document provides an overview of the draft Digital Equity Plan so you can share your ideas on achieving digital equity for your communities. Share your voice with us! With your valued feedback, Washington will strive to create sustainable and impactful digital inclusion programs and services to realize the best, most equitable way to reduce digital inequalities.

Goals

Eliminating barriers
Provide Washington residents with infrastructure, devices, and tools to maintain reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband service.

Empowering residents
Provide Washington residents with the digital knowledge, skills, and support to ensure everyone benefits from digital inclusion.

Ensuring sustainability
Establish and build partnerships to deliver and sustain broadband service and support programs for learning and engaging in civil society.

Our vision is that everyone in Washington has affordable broadband internet technology as well as the tools and skills needed to participate in our digital society before 2028.

Scan QR code to share your ideas and comments through public comment form.

Or go to our Website:
https://bit.ly/Internet-for-all

Email us for more information:
Internetforall@commerce.wa.gov

DIGITAL EQUITY
STATE BROADBAND OFFICE

Some community needs related to broadband and digital inclusion.

- More reliable, affordable options.
- Infrastructure to access broadband in unserved or underserved areas across the state.
- More resources for community institutions to provide digital skill training and devices.
- Equitable access to services like public transit, affordable housing, and healthcare from a digital equity perspective.
- Accessible digital information and services for all regardless of ability, income, or neighborhood.

What are some internet connectivity, digital technology, and skill related needs that you see in your community?

Strategies for Washington state to reduce digital inequalities

1 **Expand broadband availability and increase affordability.**

Ensuring that high-speed internet infrastructure is available across the state as the first step in bridging the digital divide.

2 **Implement innovative approaches to expand options for device availability and affordability.**

Prioritizing access and affordability of digital devices for Washington residents to help reduce barriers to accessing devices.

3 **Consolidate practices that promote online accessibility and inclusivity.**

Partnering with trusted messengers and organizations who are already doing work in communities to share information about digital assistance and online accessibility to develop best practices.

4 **Provide services that promote digital skill building.**

Expanding digital navigation services to encourage more organizations to promote digital skills through their everyday work.

5 **Promote practices and leverage tools to ensure online privacy and security.**

Promoting online privacy and safety practices is essential to encourage underrepresented communities to engage in our digital society, especially as more critical services have shifted to online platforms.

Equity plan timeline

September	October	November	December
60-Day Public comment period		Incorporate public feedback	

Draft Digital Equity Plan published

25th 26th 27th
In-person open houses

Nov 30th
Digital Equity Plan final submission