Digital Equity Update

Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

Sept. 26, 2024

NCDIT

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

More than a million North Carolina households lack access to high-speed internet, cannot afford it or do not have the skills needed to take advantage of the digital economy. Gov. Roy Cooper has prioritized closing the digital divide to achieve digital equity for all North Carolinians.

Why is Digital Literacy so Important?

91%
of N.C. jobs require some digital skills

Source: National Skills Coalition

1/3
of U.S. workers don't have foundational digital skills

Source: National Skills Coalition

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Digital Equity Grant Programs

- Office of Digital Equity and Literacy has received $50 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds over four years

- **We have awarded $44 million so far:**

  - $10 million to support 8 state government entities

  - $4 million to support 3 major anchor institutions

  - $30 million to support 63 community service, nonprofit, higher education and regional organizations

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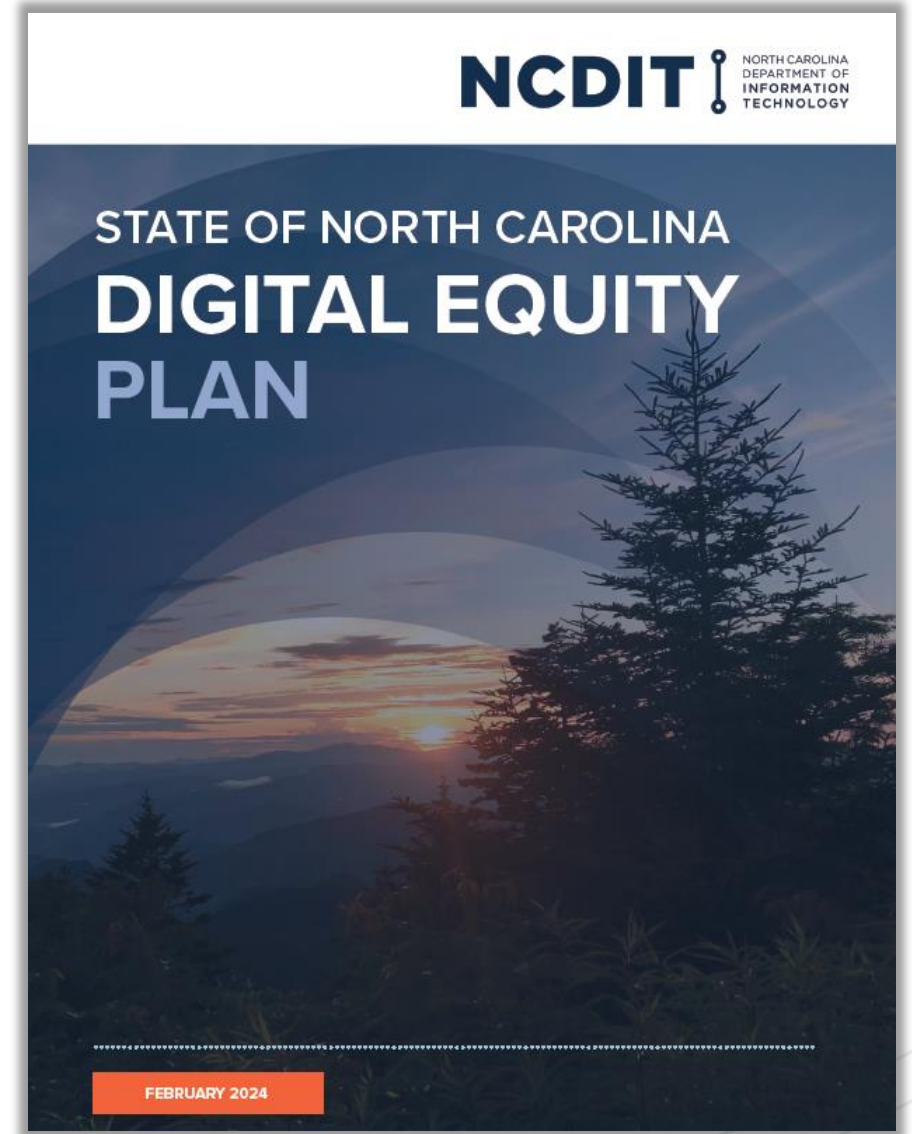
Digital Champion Grant Program

- **Awarded $30 million to 63 organizations in June**

- **Awardees and project descriptions at ncbroadband.gov/digital-champion-grantees**

- Creates partnerships with organizations statewide to implement digital inclusion solutions that positively impact target populations identified in the Digital Equity Act; Received 230 applications from local government, nonprofit, higher education and regional organizations requesting more than $150 million in funding

- Applications proposed digital equity projects from eligible entities to serve all 100 counties; many counties had project proposals from multiple applicants

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NCDIT Grants Supporting Digital Literacy for Reentry

Digital Equity Plan Approved!

- Digital Equity Plan was **ACCEPTED** by NTIA in March 2024

- Plan is available at **ncbroadband.gov/Digital-Equity-Plan**

What's Inside

We envision a future where all North Carolinians have access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet and the digital tools, resources, and skills to fully and equitably participate in our society, democracy and economy.

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What's Next?

Digital Equity Capacity Grant NOFO released by NTIA

- $22 million for North Carolina (*only NCDIT could apply*)
- Expected award date: Fall 2024
- Additional funding rounds expected in 2025 and 2026
  (so, program may continue until 2031)

Digital Inclusion Week (Oct. 7-11)

- Use the QR code now to let us know if you're hosting an event

N.C. Digital Equity and Inclusion Collaborative (Nov. 8)

- Meets quarterly to discuss state initiatives, share best practices and successes and create partnership opportunities
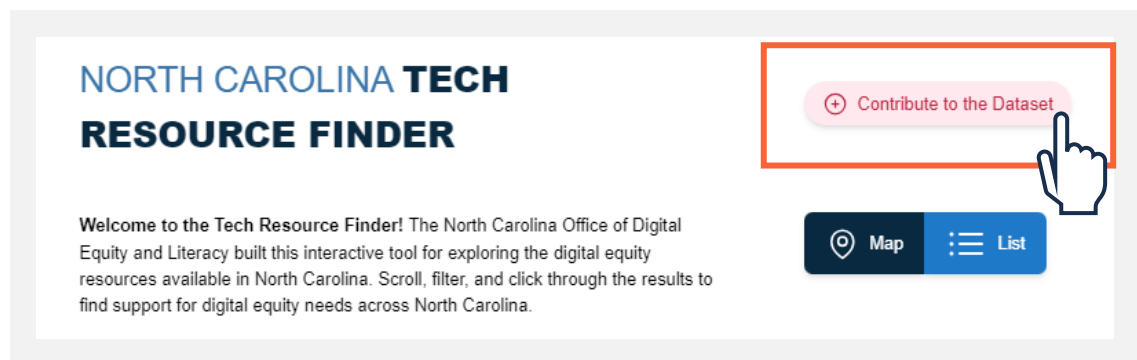
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Tech Resource Finder - Site is a Living Tool Powered by Crowdsourced Data

How did North Carolina gather resources?

- The NCDIT Office of Digital Equity and Literacy, part of the Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, gathered the information in the Tech Resource Finder as part of its Digital Equity planning work in 2023

- Community members, digital navigators, academic partners, state agencies, and North Carolinians contributed to the dataset

How can I add or update information on a resource?

- We are committed to keeping information on digital equity resources correct and current

- Click on the "contribute to the dataset" button to submit a correction or update information you see on this site

NORTH CAROLINA **TECH RESOURCE FINDER**

⊕ Contribute to the Dataset

Welcome to the Tech Resource Finder! The North Carolina Office of Digital Equity and Literacy built this interactive tool for exploring the digital equity resources available in North Carolina. Scroll, filter, and click through the results to find support for digital equity needs across North Carolina.

⊙ Map   ≣ List

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NEW! ARPA Dashboards

NCDIT: Broadband & Digital Equity Grant Tracker *(Updated as of 7/19/2024)*

County	Program	Awardee	Project Status	
Multiple selections	All	All	All	Clear All Filters

Total Funds (Statewide) $800M
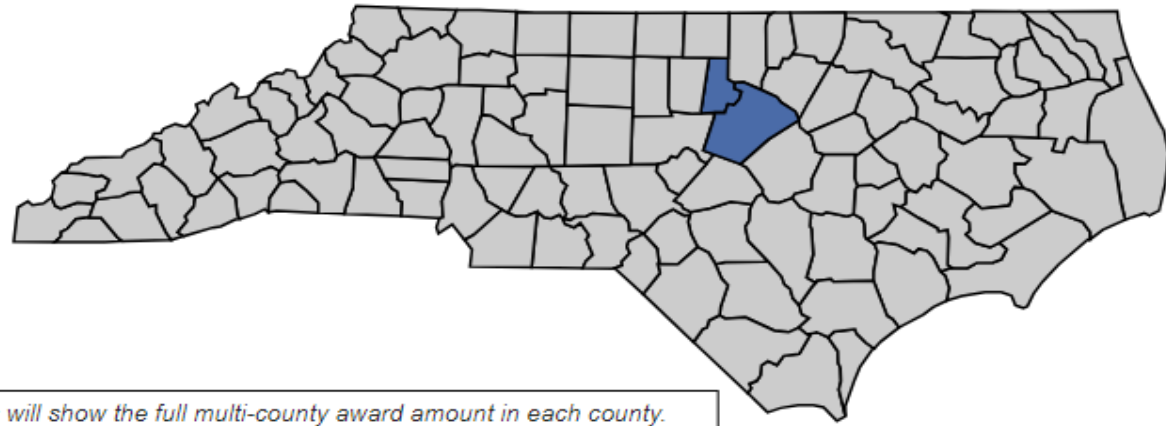
Funds Awarded $17M

Grants Awarded 9

Households Served 4,040

Businesses Served 173

Program Scope: County | Multi-county

Grant Award Details by County

Single awards for multiple counties will show the full multi-county award amount in each county.

Individual Grant Award Details by County

County	Program Scope	Program	Grant Program	Awardee	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Project Status	Construction Deadline
Wake	County	Completing Access to Broadband		AT&T	$2,882,414	$5,353,055	Contracted	10/31/2026
Wake	County	Completing Access to Broadband		Spectrum	$463,790	$861,325	Contracted	10/31/2026
Chatham,Moore,Durham, Johnston,Lee,Wake,Oran	Multi-county	Digital Equity	Digital Champions Program	Central Pines Regional Council	$800,000			

* All data is exclusively reflective of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and does not include state-funded GREAT grant awards.

Stay in touch:

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