COLORADO
Department of Labor and Employment

**Office of the Future of Work**
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# Join the Digital Equity Committee

The Subcommittee on Digital Literacy & Inclusion that stemmed from the Broadband Advisory Board is reconvening – but with a new name and a new focus! As we embark upon creating a state digital equity plan, we want the right voices in the room to guide our work. If you're interested, please:

- Fill out the interest form (new!)
- Meetings will take place every other month.

**Overview of funding to support digital access:** The State of Colorado is creating a Digital Equity Plan to achieve improved digital equity outcomes for Coloradans and to close the digital divide. Using federal Digital Equity Planning Grant Program funding, the State will create the blueprint for how we serve all Coloradans by promoting meaningful adoption and use of high-speed internet service, digital skills, and more with a special emphasis on:

- Low-income households
- Aging populations
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- People with language barriers
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants

While the Digital Equity Plan will address issues such as a lack of access to connected devices and digital skills, the State of Colorado will expand the infrastructure needed to improve access to reliable, high-speed internet through the Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) grant. Together, these funding opportunities will work to close inequities and move toward a Colorado where all communities and individuals have the IT capacity to fully participate in our society, democracy and economy.

**What it is:** The Digital Equity Committee will be an ongoing group to discuss, research, and analyze digital literacy and inclusion to inform the creation of the Colorado Digital Equity Plan. The goal of the Committee is to ensure the Colorado Digital Equity Plan improves Coloradans' digital skills for work, learning, and daily life, as well as their access to technology and connectivity needed to meet their needs, with a focus on covered populations specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Specifically, the Committee will leverage strong community connections to ensure community voice is represented throughout the planning process, contribute to the digital equity asset inventory, provide policy recommendations, receive updates on the State's plan, share best practices, and research strategies to increase digital resilience.

**What it is not:** This Committee will **not be focused on broadband infrastructure** across the state. If you are interested in learning more about the efforts related to broadband infrastructure, please check out the Colorado Broadband Office website.

**Who should join:** Any individual or organization that is interested in learning more about digital literacy and inclusion efforts, sharing their model/insights from their digital literacy and inclusion work, and/or joining the effort to build digital equity across the state. If you aren't the best person to attend, but you know someone who is - please share this information with them! We are intentionally building an inclusive membership and working groups of diverse partners. If you know someone who would be interested but doesn't have access to the form, please have them contact me at 720.607.3795.

**Agenda:** Each general meeting will include updates from the DEA Working Group, programmatic updates from OFOW and others, presentations and guided discussions related to digital literacy and inclusion to inform the group, and calls to action to support digital equity.

**When:** Alternating months on the fourth Tuesday, from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.
**Where**: These are virtual events. Complete this interest form to get involved. You can also register to attend our next meeting on Zoom.

**Digital Equity Act Working Group (OPTIONAL)**

- Do you have a high level of commitment to digital inclusion? Are you able to invest significantly more time and energy for guiding the creation of Colorado's Digital Equity Plan? Do you identify as or work closely with the covered population communities? Let us know that you are interested in serving on the Digital Equity Act Working Group on the interest form.
- This is a small working group that meets frequently to build Colorado's Digital Equity Plan for submission to NTIA. It will include 2-3 lived experts, 2-3 representatives from state agencies, 2-3 representatives from libraries, 2-3 representatives from local governments, and 2-3 representatives from community based organizations. This group's work will involve:
    - Participation in the creation of measurable objectives for each covered population (CP) listed above;
    - Data gathering;
    - Assessment of how the objectives will impact and interact with the State's and other organizations' objectives, including:
        - Economic and workforce development goals, plans, and outcomes;
        - Educational outcomes;
        - Health outcomes;
        - Civic and social engagement
        - Delivery of other essential services
    - Developing effective and equitable processes for implementing the State's plan
- If you are interested in serving on the Digital Equity Act Working Group, please indicate your interest at the end of the interest form, and describe how your experience can inform the work of creating a Colorado Digital Equity Plan. If you are not selected, please join us at the Digital Equity Committee meetings.

Hope to see you soon!