





## When Is State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Funding Available?

At the end of March, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released the [NOFO](#) for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. [Funding for each state is determined based on a formula](#) (NOFO, p. 22-23).

The application deadline for the first tranche of funds for the States was May 28, 2024; however, some states submitted their applications earlier. NTIA will issue the first award to at least one state by August 28, 2024, and announce additional awards on a rolling basis (NOFO p. 39). However, because states began submitting their applications earlier than the May 28<sup>th</sup> deadline, NTIA could issue the first state award as early as June. Program funds from the first tranche will need to be expended within 5 years from the date the State is awarded the grant funds. (NOFO, p. 21). Territories and Native entity applications will be due later in the year (NOFO, p. 1).

Future NOFOs are expected to make an additional \$300 million available in fiscal years 2025 and 2026 (NOFO, p.4).

## How Will States Award Funds to Implement Their Plans?

States can use grant funds to:

- ◁ Update and maintain their state's Plan. (no more than 20% of the grant)

- ◁ To cover administrative costs.

Refer to the NOFO (p. 32) for additional information.

Each state determines how it will distribute funds to achieve the goals outlined in its Plan. For example, some will directly implement the plan at the state level, some will create subgrants to implement specific projects, some will do a combination of both, etc. Look to the state's Plan for guidance or ask your broadband office for specifics. States have up to nine months from the award date to submit the Specific Projects that will be part of their implementation strategy for this round of funding (NOFO p. 28), but they can submit that list sooner if they choose. Because states **a** list specific projects with their application, it's important libraries be visible to state broadband offices as early as possible.

## Goals for the Program

The activities each state funds through this grant program should create "the necessary conditions to empower individuals and communities with the technological capacity to fully participate in society and the economy" (NOFO, p. 33) and should include:

- ◁ Focus on serving covered populations.
- ◁ Long-lasting and meaningful change that addresses the systemic barriers and gaps to digital access.
- ◁ Measurable implementation strategies.
- ◁ Engaging stakeholders who are directly affected by the proposed strategies and interventions.

For more information, look to the state's Plan which provides the roadmap each state will use to achieve its digital equity goals.

## Potential Activities to Achieve Program Goals

The NOFO (p. 34-35) includes potential activities that can be used to achieve the State's digital equity goals. They include:

- ◁ Digital literacy and skills training
- ◁ Device distribution programs. Important note: Digital literacy and skills training must be an integral part of any device distribution program to ensure that the beneficiaries receive training on how to use the devices effectively.



# What Information State's Need About Your Grant Idea

If your project is funded by a Subgrant, the State will also need to submit the following information to the NTIA for approval.

- ◁ Subgrantee Legal Name
- ◁ Legal Identifiers of Subgrantee, including unique entity identifier (UEI) and employer identification number (EIN) of the subgrantee, recipients and subrecipients are required to incorporate program measurement and evaluation activities as a part of their program design and implementation.
- ◁ Subgrantee Capacity. Describe the subgrantee's capacity to manage the project for which it will receive a subgrant.

If you need to create a unique entity identifier, review the [Before You Get Started](#) web page which includes information you need to register for a Unique Entity ID (UEID) [Using a checklist](#).

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