What Your Library Needs to Know: Technical Requirements for Seeking State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Funding

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Background

The Digital Equity Act (DEA) allocates $2.75 billion over three grant programs to promote digital inclusion and ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable, high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives. States used the first DEA grant program to create a digital equity plan (Plan). The plans are created and it's time to start implementing the Plans through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (Program).

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When State Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding is available.

How states will award funds.
- Goals for the program.
- Limits on how funds can be used.
- Information state's need about your grant idea.
- Create your unique entity ID at SAM.gov.
- Additional resources.

The amount of funding available varies by state. Check the Internet for All Funding By State/Territory web page to determine how much federal funding is available in your state.

1. **Be informed.** Check your state's broadband office website for updates and see if they have a newsletter you can sign up for to keep up with the latest news. Check in with your SArtifact3 (r)TJ(ytao7SB2.6 (y)2..002 Twr)4.3 (0.002 Tw 12.6 (9202 0 Td(n6 (i)-1)P-11.,)2

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 28th 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, funfye...

> Note: while there is a 5% cap on evaluation activities by the subgrantee, the state has more flexibility.

- 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 may 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

What Information State's Need About Your Grant Idea

NTIA requires each state to submit the following information for each grant project

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

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 including a helpful checklist.

If you need assistance, go to the Federal Service Desk webpage where you can Search Help or submit a web form at any time. During business hours you can also access Live Help using chat or call for assistance.

States may also have their own certification or eligibility requirements, which will be outlined in the call for proposals when individual states release them.

Additional Resources

- ALA Digital Equity Resources for Libraries
- NTIA Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Page
- NTIA Internet for All Frequently Asked