



# Minnesota's Draft Digital Opportunity Plan

## BACKGROUND

In November of 2021, Congress passed the Digital Equity Act, designating \$2.75 billion to help states, tribes, and territories ensure all residents can afford high-speed internet, have access to the devices they need (like smartphones and laptops), and develop their digital skills. To receive this federal funding, the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD) must prepare a statewide digital opportunity plan. This handout is just one small piece of the draft plan. To read the draft in its entirety, visit OBD's digital opportunity website or ask if your local library has a copy.



## MN's Digital Opportunity Vision Statement

We envision a future where digital access connects all Minnesota residents to opportunities, options, and each other.

## Share Your Feedback Through September 29

- Read the full Draft Digital Opportunity Plan: [shorturl.at/iuP57](https://shorturl.at/iuP57)
- Submit a public comment about the draft through OBD's online form or by mail: [shorturl.at/istvy](https://shorturl.at/istvy)



## GOAL 1: Connect People to People



- Minnesota's digital opportunity advocates are a united group who can lean on each other for strategies and support.

### Strategies:

- Pilot a Digital Opportunity Leaders Network that combines local energy, regional expertise, and statewide continuity
- Explore options for a statewide tech helpline
- Support small businesses in assessing and improving technology access
- Hire/train high school and college students to work as paid tech repair technicians

## GOAL 2: Connect People to Information



- Minnesotans can access comprehensive digital opportunity data, maps, and planning tools.

### Strategies:

- Build on OBD's broadband maps to incorporate measures of digital opportunity
- Develop a public directory of digital opportunity resources and partners
- Support local and tribal governments in developing their own digital opportunity plans
- Improve accessibility of local and tribal government websites

## GOAL 3: Connect People to Resources



- New pathways to digital opportunity reach Minnesotans who are at high risk for being digitally excluded.

### Strategies:

- Research models for a state program to reduce internet costs for low-income households
- Develop a statewide system to circulate large-screen devices as long-term loans
- Administer non-competitive and competitive grant programs to local governments and organizations to pilot or expand digital navigation services

## Timeline

### 2023: PHASE 1

- **August 21 – September 29:** public comment period for draft plan
- **November:** Final plan submitted to federal government

### 2024 – 2028: PHASE 2

- State receives Digital Equity Act capacity grant funds
- State implements digital opportunity plan



[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/adoption](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/adoption)

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