

# PLANNING FOR DIGITAL EQUITY

Presented by:  
Montana State Library

April, 2024



What are the benefits of conducting digital equity plans for local libraries.

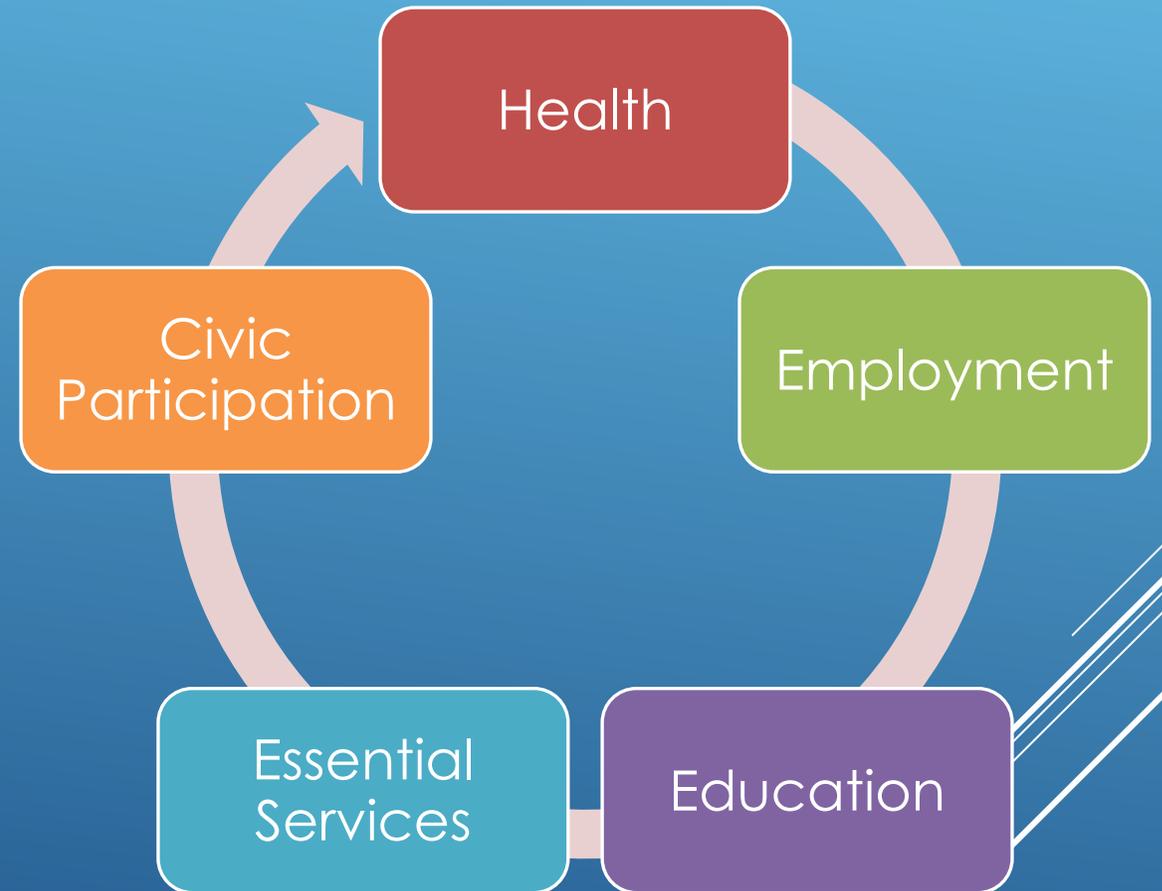
Coordinating with Federal and state agencies that are involved in digital equity efforts.

Creating a digital equity plan for your local library.

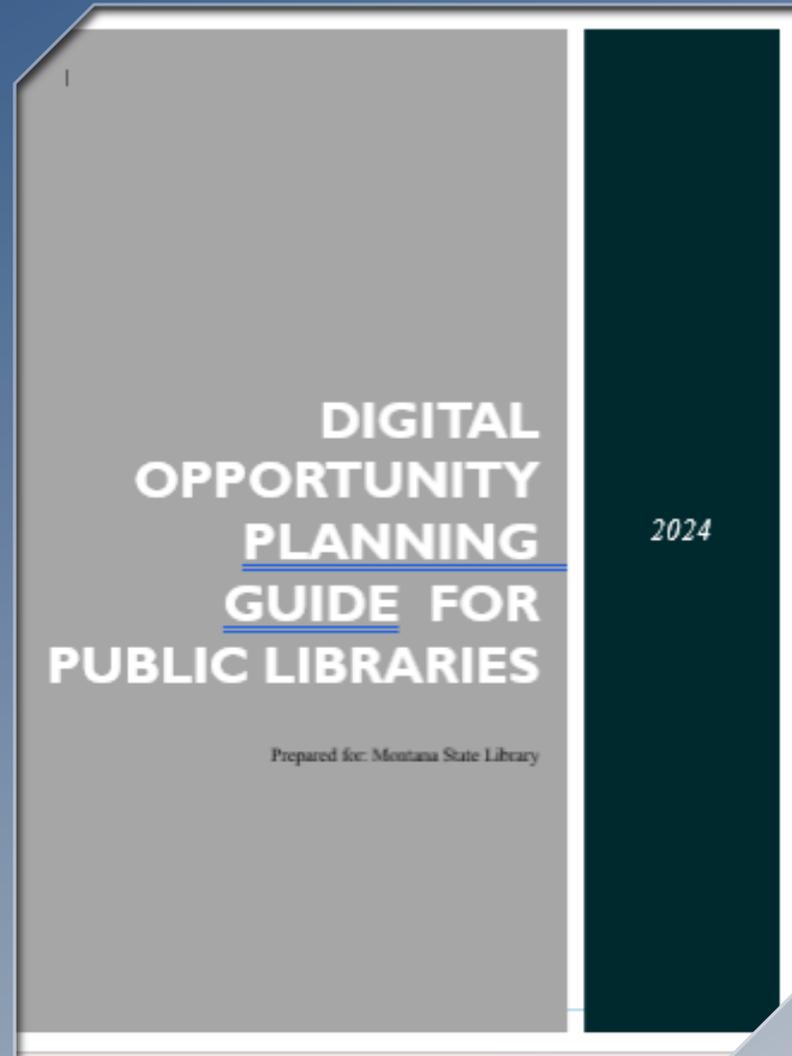
## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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“Digital equity is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.”



*Source: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*



AVAILABLE IN ASPEN EVENT RESOURCES AND MSL WEBSITE UNDER LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT – DIRECTORS – MORE RESOURCES

**Availability:** Is there sufficient infrastructure and coverage to deliver reliable, high-speed wired or wireless broadband service and technology tools for learning? Do households have devices to access the Internet?

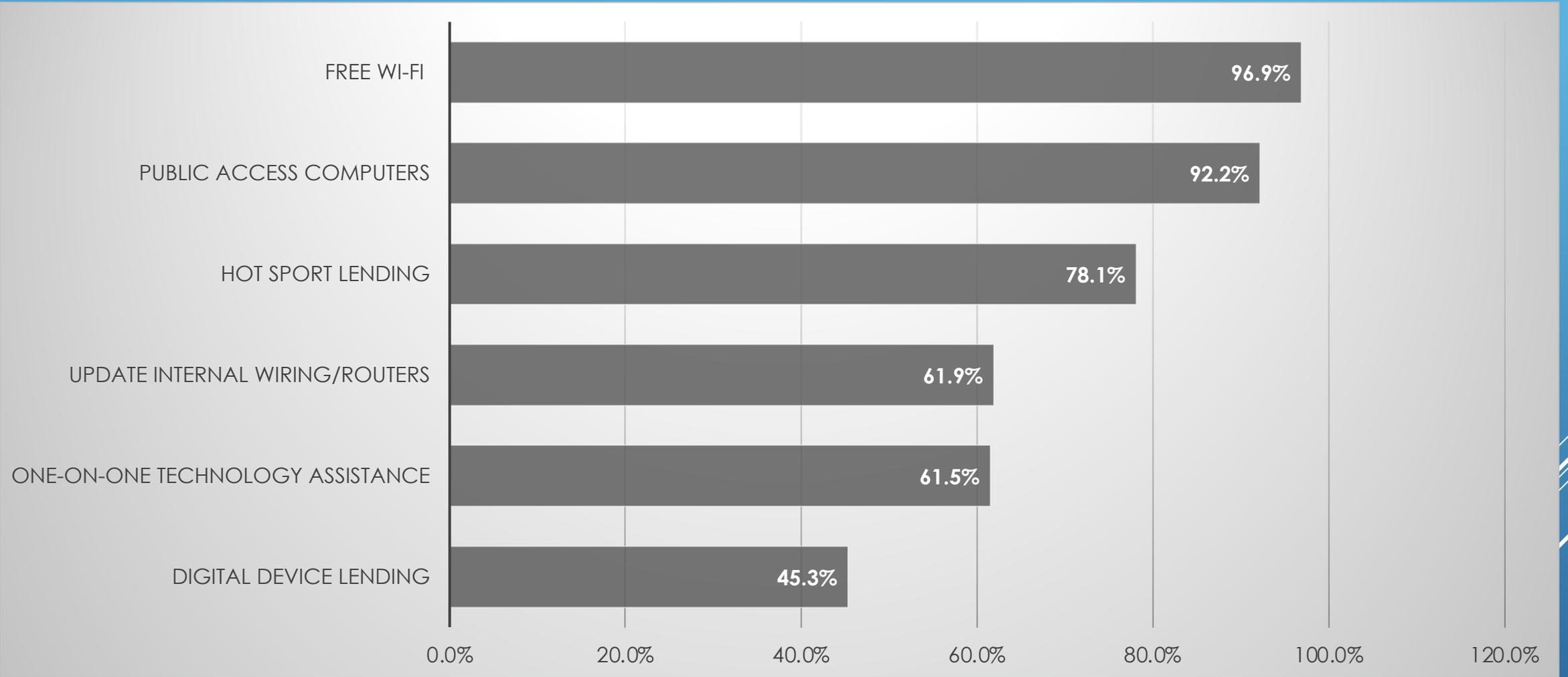


**Affordability:** Can learners and families/caregivers pay for the total cost of maintaining reliable, high-speed broadband service and technology tools for learning?

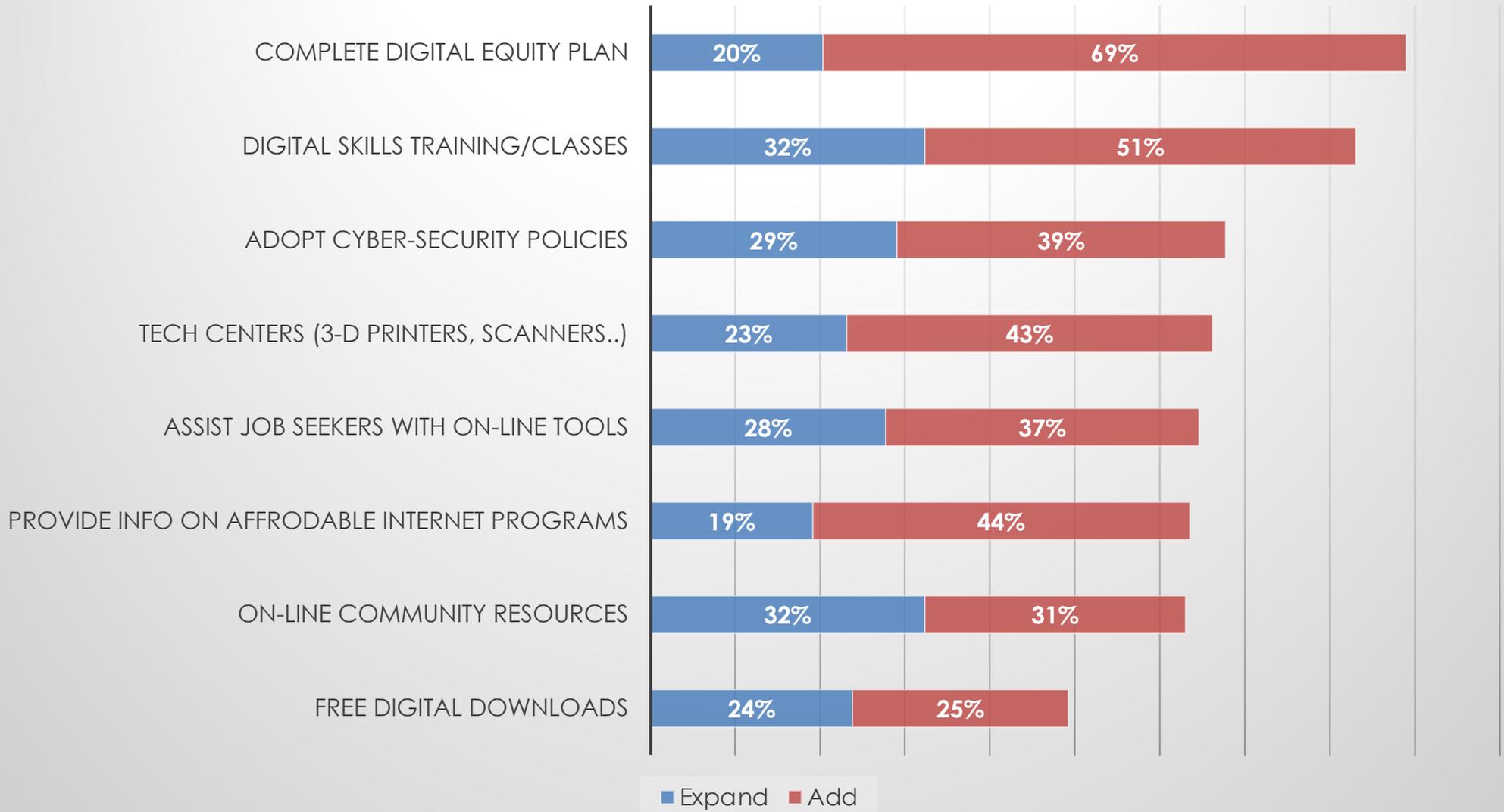


**Adoption:** Do learners and families/caregivers have the information, support, and skills to obtain regular, adequate access to reliable, high-speed broadband service and technology tools for learning?

## COMPONENTS OF DIGITAL EQUITY



# MONTANA LIBRARIES – BEST PRACTICES



# DE PROGRAMS TO EXPAND OR ADD

# INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

**BEAD** - Provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states

**DEA** - Provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

Source: National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/>



Looks like everyone is online

Just Swain © 2014

Low-Income  
Households

Aging  
Populations

Veterans

People with  
Disabilities

Rural  
inhabitants

People with  
Language  
barriers

Racial and  
ethnic  
minorities

Incarcerated  
individuals

DEA – TARGET POPULATIONS



State Digital  
Equity  
Planning Grant



State Digital  
Equity  
Capacity Grant



Digital Equity  
Competitive  
Grant Program

# DIGITAL EQUITY GRANTS

# Examples of Capacity Grant Program Allowable Uses



Digital Equity grantees can use their funds in multiple ways to achieve the equitable adoption of high-speed internet and empower their communities to learn and the services they provide to grow<sup>1</sup>.



**Digital Literacy and Skills Training** | *Encourage digital literacy and skills programs that provide training and education to members of the Covered Populations*



**E-Government and Civic Engagement** | *Develop digital tools that enable online community engagement and that empower individuals to participate in the democratic process*



**Device Deployment Programs** | *Coordinate deployment of accessible devices such as laptops, smartphones, tablets, or other internet-enabled devices for those that need it most*



**Economic Development** | *Support digital entrepreneurship, online job training, and remote work opportunities to foster economic empowerment and reduce disparities*



**Online Access to Health and Mental Wellness Services** | *Build or strengthen tools that directly help patients and end users within the Covered Populations to access healthcare services online*



**Online Accessibility** | *Coach programs to ensure that websites and applications are designed with accessibility in mind*



**Access to Affordable Broadband Service** | *Promote programs to provide low-cost services*

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# Digital Opportunity Plan

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State of Montana

Montana Broadband Office  
Montana Department of Administration



MT.GOV  
WEBSITE

SERVICES AGEN

# ConnectMT Broadband Program

General Information ▾

ARPA ▾

IIJA/BEAD ▾

Events ▾

Contact





Most Montana public libraries serve fewer than 50,000 people, and 98 percent of those institutions report broadband speeds below 100 Mbps download, and significantly below the NTIA's target speed of 1 Gb symmetrical.



Even where high-speed internet is available, in some cases libraries cannot offer high-speed internet to patrons due to outdated internal wiring.



Nationwide, Montana ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in high-speed internet adoption, with 67 percent of households subscribed to high-speed terrestrial broadband (including cable, fiber optic, or DSL).

## MONTANA DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN: FINDINGS

- ▶ Invest in additional hotspots and other internet-capable devices (e.g., laptops, tablets), and implement this lending program at all public libraries in Montana, scaled to serve respective populations
- ▶ Libraries could be a natural fit to establish and expand device access points, as many are already used for internet access (Computers, laptops and tablets.)

## DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN: LIBRARY RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Montana will identify state agency partners who can develop and administer curricula to their respective staff and the populations they serve.
- ▶ Montana could partner with other state agencies (e.g., Montana State Library, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind) to design and deploy new tailored digital skills training programs to meet the needs of covered populations, who could benefit from lessons on fundamental digital skills and computer use. These skills would allow them to access telehealth and other basic services online.

## DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY PLAN: DIGITAL SKILLS RELATED RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Introduction**

Purpose

Background (State & Federal programs)

## **Community Profile**

Census Profile

Broadband Services & Adoption

## **Library Profile**

Overview & Service Area

Facilities & Technology Assets

Library DE Programs & On-line Services

Staffing & Training Needs

## **Community Engagement**

Surveys

Focus groups, community meetings ....

## **Goals & Objectives**

Availability

Affordability

Adoption

## **Implementation**

Action Plan & Timetable

Funding resources & Partners

# Digital Equity Plan Template for Public Libraries

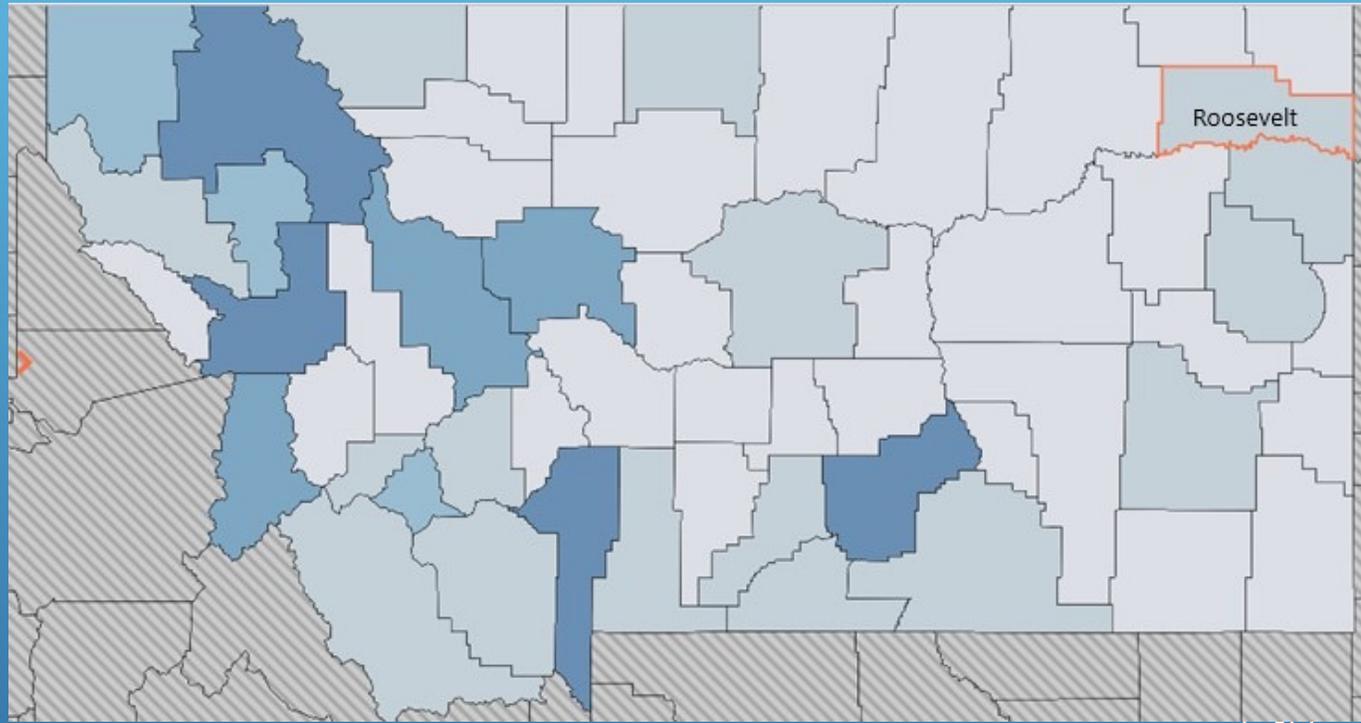


## U.S. CENSUS PROFILE

Computer & Internet Use	Roosevelt
Household Has one or more computing device	77.2%
Desktop or laptop	57.1%
Tablet	45.1%
Smart phone	70.9%
No computer	22.8%
Household owns an all-in-one printer*	58.6%

Item	Details
<b>Public Access Computers</b>	# of computers: Usage Data:
<b>Free Wi-Fi for patrons</b>	Usage Data:
<b>Staff computers &amp; wide area network</b>	# of computers: Recent upgrades of router, wiring:
<b>Broadband Connection</b>	Provider: Download/Upload Speeds: Connection type: (Fiber, DSL, Wireless...): Participate in E-rate:
<b>Other</b>	

# TECHNOLOGY ASSETS INVENTORY – PARTIAL CHECKLIST



# ROOSEVELT COUNTY LIBRARY

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ▶ Info Guides (Funding, Best Practices ...)
- ▶ Webinars
- ▶ One-on-One Consultation (Grant readiness & DE Plans)
- ▶ Digital Equity Plan Templates
- ▶ Conferences/meetings
- ▶ Montana State Library web site



# QUESTIONS

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