

# DRAFT Digital Opportunity Plan: Executive Summary

## Background Information

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, passed by Congress in November 2021, appropriated \$2.75 billion for the federal Digital Equity Act. This funding provides options for states, tribes, and territories to help people afford internet service, access devices like computers and smartphones, and improve their digital skills. This plan explores digital opportunity statewide and presents goals achievable with a federal Digital Equity Capacity Grant, anticipated in 2024.

## Current State of Digital Opportunity in Minnesota

Group of People <sup>1</sup>	Population	Broadband Subscription	Mobile Data Only	Laptop or Desktop	Smartphone Only
All Minnesotans	5,802,000	83.7%	10.9%	82.1%	7.0%
People Living in Greater MN	2,605,000	66.8%	12.2%	77.6%	8.2%
Adults Ages 60+	1,348,000	79.6%	11.8%	77.4%	6.0%
People from Minoritized Racial and Ethnic Groups	1,279,000	78.5%	17.4%	78.4%	17.2%
Veterans	265,900	81.5%	10.2%	81.0%	5.8%
People with Disabilities	649,000	79.0%	10.8%	69.8%	10.3%
People who are Incarcerated or Re-Entering Society <sup>2</sup>	8,200 in facilities 20,000 supervised	64.1%	unknown	42.2%	unknown
People Experiencing Language Barriers	240,000	65.3%	21.5%	63.0%	28.6%
People Living Under 150% Poverty	904,800	75.4%	19.0%	68.5%	19.2%

## Key Strategies

- Establish a Digital Opportunity Leaders Network to coordinate support digital opportunity initiatives regionally and statewide.
- Expand OBD’s public data and mapping tools to include digital opportunity measures.
- Prepare reports exploring models for: (1) a statewide tech helpline; (2) state-level programs mirroring ACP or Lifeline; and (3) a state-managed system for loaning large-screen devices long-term.
- Partner with state offices serving people at high-risk for digital exclusion.
- Coordinate with ISPs to support newly connected households needing education and resources.
- Administer targeted grants to support:
  - Local and tribal governments preparing their own digital opportunity plans.
  - Community partners piloting positions focused on trust-based digital opportunity work.
  - Small businesses improving technology access.
  - Local and tribal governments improving web accessibility.

### Share Your Feedback Through September 29

Read the full Digital Opportunity Plan: [shorturl.at/iuP57](https://shorturl.at/iuP57)

Submit a public comment through OBD’s online form: [shorturl.at/istvy](https://shorturl.at/istvy)

Attend a listening session, offered in 16 different locations: [shorturl.at/dAQTW](https://shorturl.at/dAQTW)

<sup>1</sup> Data sources are American Community Survey 2021 1-Year Estimates and 2017-21 5-Year Estimates unless otherwise noted.

<sup>2</sup> Data courtesy of Repowered, focusing specifically on individuals who are re-entering.