

DIGITAL EQUITY UPDATE:

CLOSING FAIRFAX COUNTY'S DIGITAL DIVIDE

Information Technology Committee Meeting
October 2, 2023





AGENDA

Fairfax County Progress Since Last Update

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) and other funding opportunities

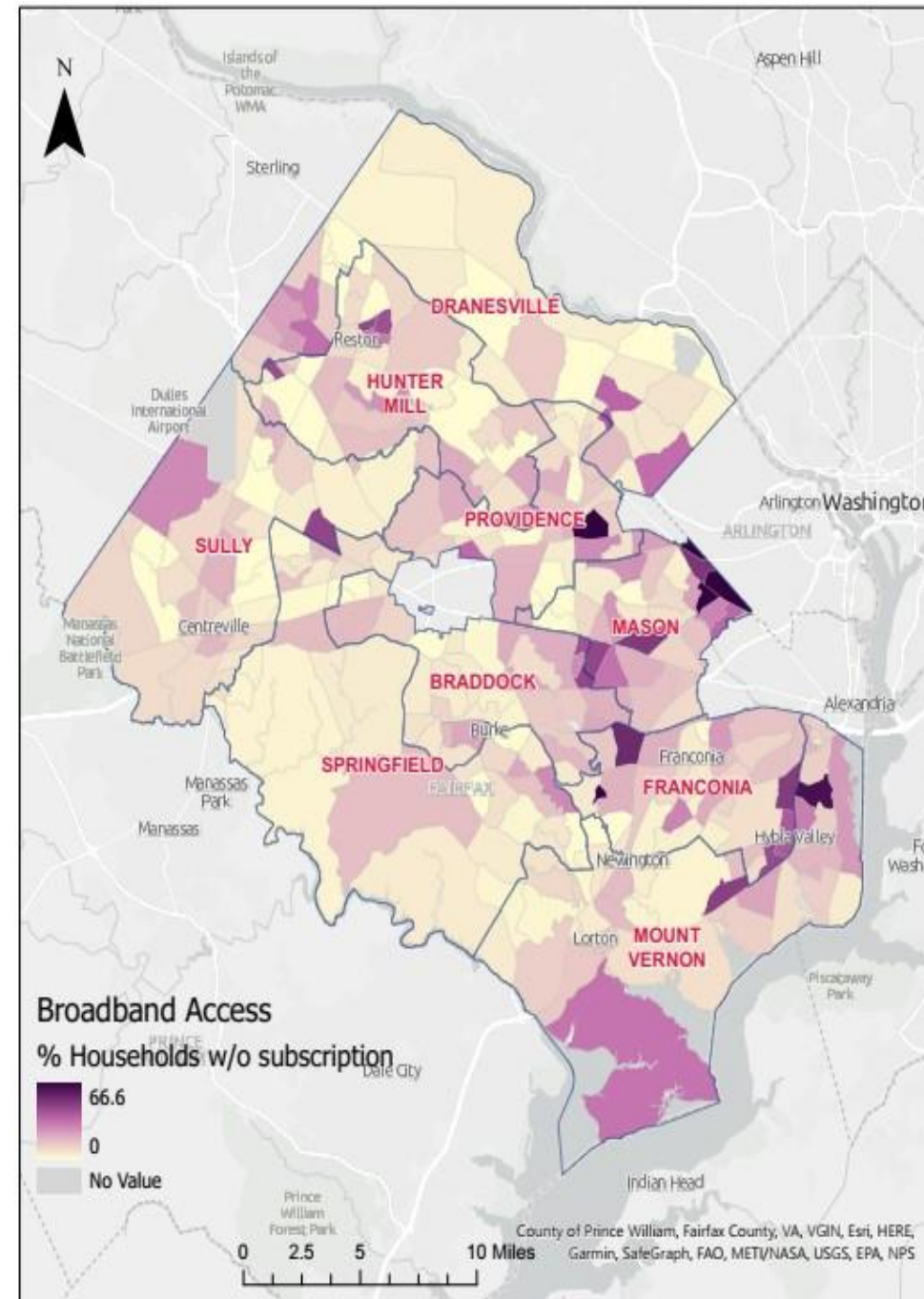
Providers Overview

Discussion



DEFINING DIGITAL EQUITY

Digital equity ensures opportunities for Fairfax County residents to participate and engage in a connected community. The ability to access, understand and use digital tools is essential for many tasks in modern life including applying for jobs, paying bills, enjoying recreation activities, completing homework, stay informed, and connecting with government and community resources. This fosters inclusivity, promotes social and economic justice, and helps individuals thrive in a technology-driven society.



DIGITAL EQUITY in Fairfax County

01. Affordable digital hardware and connections
02. Awareness of digital resources and services
03. Access to specific digital tools
04. Advancement of digital literacy skills



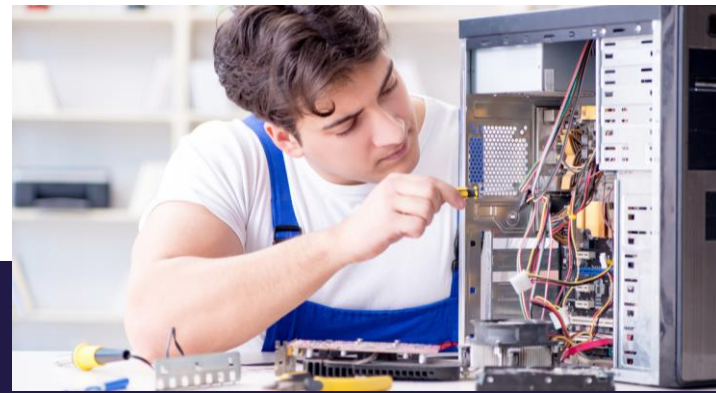


DIGITAL EQUITY is a Strategic Priority

Digital access and literacy for all residents is an area of focus of the One Fairfax Policy through intentional consideration of how different places and populations are faring in relation to the county's digital access and literacy policies, programs, and services, and infrastructure. Further, our Countywide Strategic Plan and the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan call for expanding and enhancing the technology skills of learners of all ages, while eliminating barriers to digital access.



Overview of the County's DIGITAL EQUITY Efforts



AFFORDABLE DIGITAL HARDWARE AND CONNECTIONS

Partnership with Education Superhighway:

www.educationsuperhighway.org

ACP Promotion

ACP Community Events

50% Increase in Enrollees from June 2022 – July 2023



AWARENESS OF DIGITAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Updated Website:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/digital-equity

Digital Inclusion Week

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/promoting-digital-equity-build-connected-communities

Updated Marketing Materials



ACCESS TO DIGITAL TOOLS

Library Lending Program

NCS Community Center and Senior Center Lending Program (coming soon)

County Facilities Extended WiFi initiative



CAPACITY BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Providers, Sponsorships, Grants

ACP Outreach

Affordable Options

Engaging Community-Based Organizations
ComputerCore , Minority Tech Foundation , and ServiceSource (Community Anchors)

Creation of Digital Equity Coordination Team



FAIRFAX COUNTY PREPARATION



Regional collaboration (Arlington, Alexandria, Prince William)

Provider and community-based organization engagement

Coordination with FCPS

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Support

Collecting and analyzing data received from the State

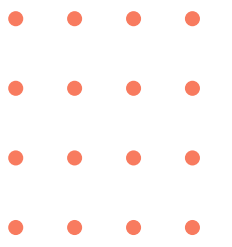
Focus on Affordable Multi-Family Properties in Fairfax County

Explore Funding Opportunities

- BEAD, VATI, Foundation Grants



THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS and DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM (BEAD)



BACKGROUND

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocated \$42.5 billion in broadband program funding for planning, infrastructure deployment, and broadband adoption (nondeployment) programs. Funds have been allocated through a formula allocation.



PURPOSE

Provide funding to US states and territories to end the disparity in access to broadband infrastructure and begin to address affordability and adoption programs.



WHAT IT MEANS

Opportunity to continue Commonwealth investments in broadband expansion and to explore affordability and adoption programs. Challenge process and coordination.

VIRGINIA'S BEAD ALLOCATION: \$1.48 BILLION





THESE ACTIVITIES CAN BE CONDUCTED IN TANDEM, PROVIDED ANTICIPATED FUNDING CAN COVER ALL PRIORITIES.

BEAD MANDATED PRIORITIES TO STATES AND TERRITORIES

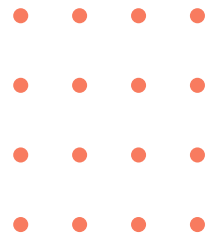


-
- 1st Reach unserved areas, lacking 25/3 internet speeds
 - 2nd Reach undeserved areas, lacking 100/20 internet speeds
 - 3rd Programs that supplement deployment (workforce development)
 - 4th Connecting community anchors and support broadband adoption programs
 - 5th Other non-deployment uses



Discussions with Providers





T H A N K Y O U

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

