
EQUITY IMPACT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

CALENDAR YEAR 2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Department Name: Cable and Consumer Services

Equity Lead(s): Rebecca L. Makely

Date: December 11, 2024

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DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

Goal 1: Digital Equity and Inclusion – While the Department of Cable and Consumer Services (DCCS) has no regulatory role or authority as it relates to digital equity, access, and inclusion; we do serve on the County Digital Equity Coordination Team. DCCS produces programming in the form of public service announcements, promotionals, and event coverage in support of this issue.

Goal 1 Progress: In 2024, DCCS was an active member of the Countywide Digital Equity Coordination (DEC) Team, which included monitoring federal and state-level policy changes to broadband internet to inform countywide efforts to ensure that Fairfax County residents have the resources and skills to participate and thrive in digitally connected communities. DCCS attended monthly DEC meetings to provide updates on legislative and advocacy efforts as well as the wind-down process for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP); deployment and non-deployment opportunities of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program; and sharing information about collaborative opportunities for the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Application from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Additionally, to support the county's efforts to increase residents' awareness of affordability plans, DCCS created and shared with county departments on DEC, a PowerPoint presentation template for community information sessions with details on low-cost internet plans and programs. DCCS also served on the DEC's planning committee for the 2024 Digital Equity Summit.

Lastly, to guide the development of the 5-year Countywide Digital Equity Action Plan, DCCS participated in stakeholder interviews to provide detailed perspective on the state of digital equity landscape in Fairfax County and provided edits to finalize the plan for sharing with the Board of Supervisors and the public.