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LOCAL BROADBAND LEADERSHIP: CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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NLC Delivers

Let NLC deliver
for your city with:

- **Advocacy Support**
- **Peer Networking**
- **National Leadership**
- **Education + Training**
- **Hands-On Assistance**
- **Community Discounts**
- **And more!**

nlc.org/stateleague





AGENDA



Understanding Digital Equity & the Digital Divide



Assessing Your Community's Needs



Solutions & Partnerships



Federal, State & Other Resources

What Contributes to the Digital Divide?

Accessibility

Infrastructure

Network
performance

Residential &
commercial
connectivity

Providers & options

Affordability

Plan pricing

Subsidies &
supports

Device ownership

Skills

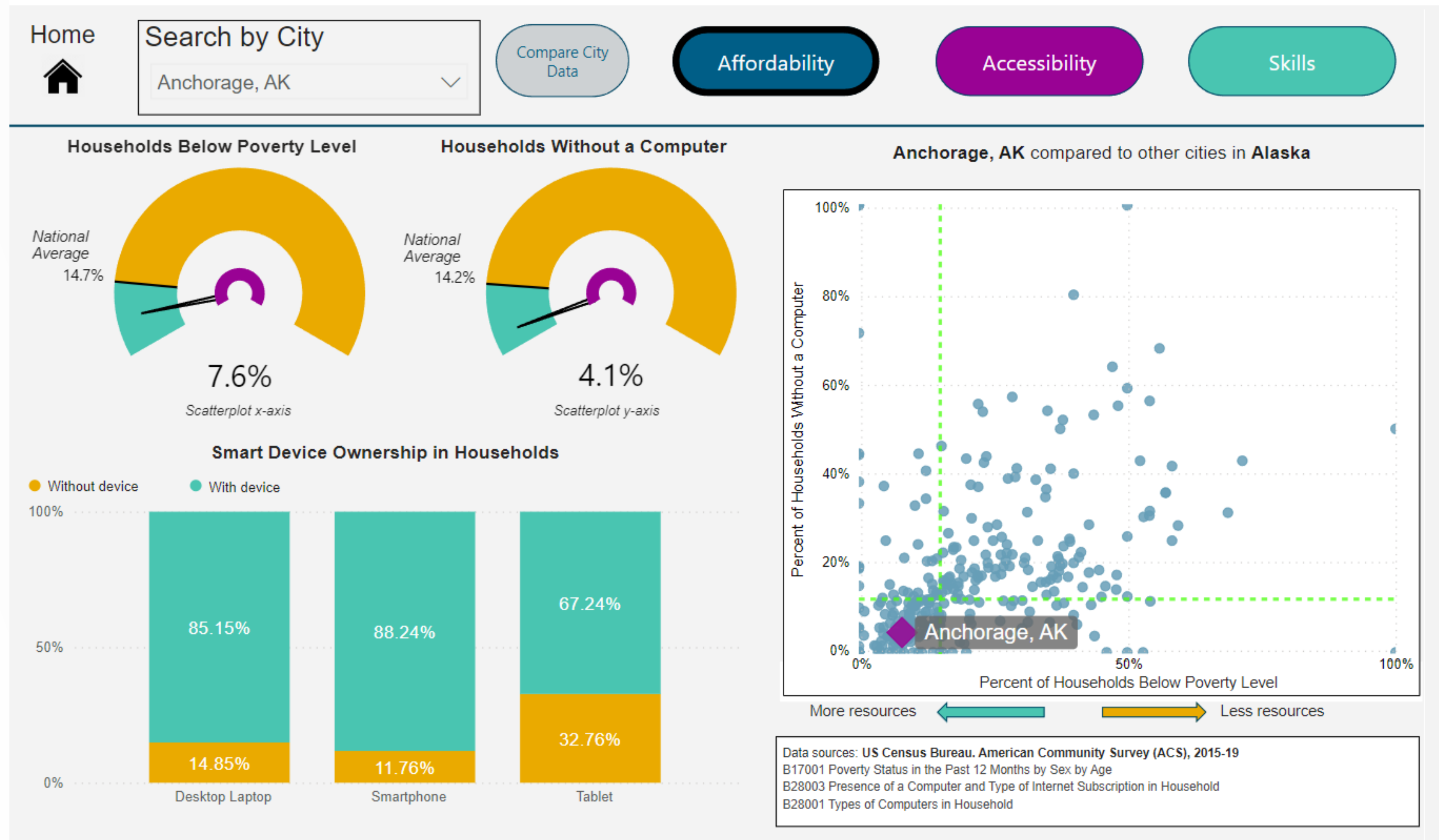
Digital literacy

Connection to
relevant needs &
interests

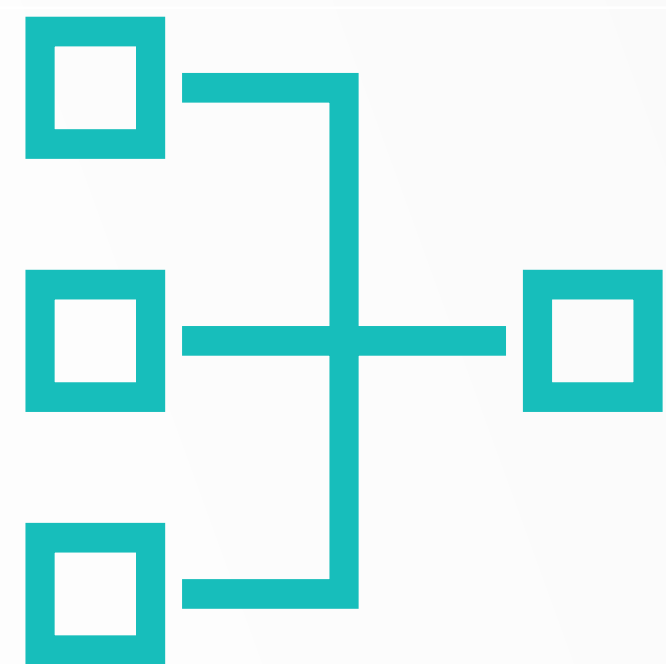
Workforce &
educational needs

Online safety

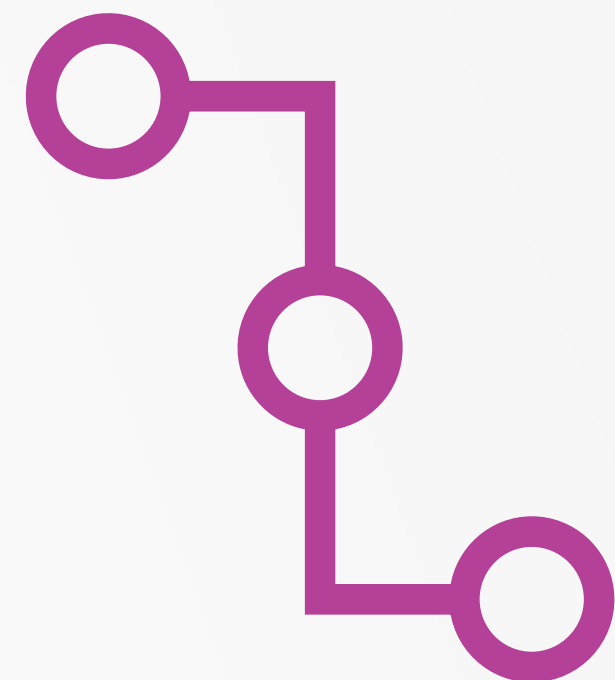
Understanding YOUR Community's Needs



Solutions: Infrastructure



Conduit



Dark Fiber



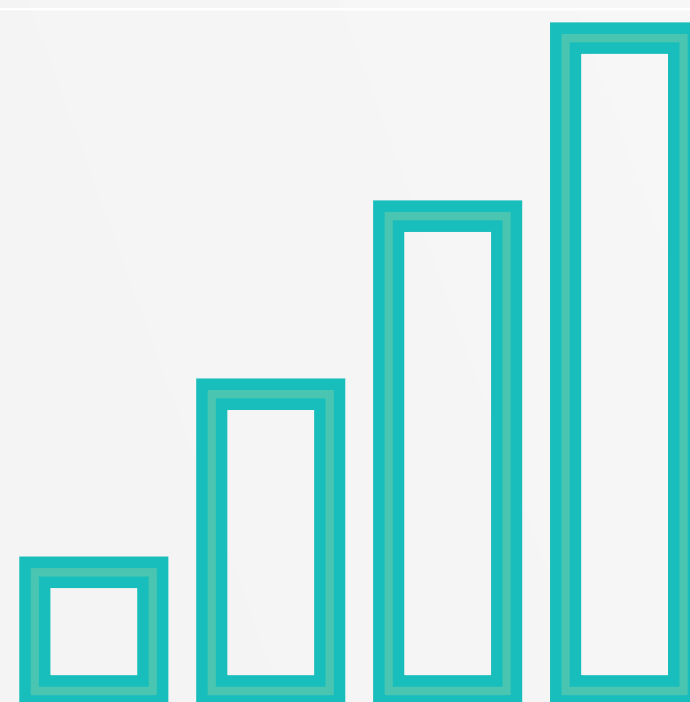
Lit Fiber



Community Networks



Fixed Wireless



Public Connections



Wireless Mesh

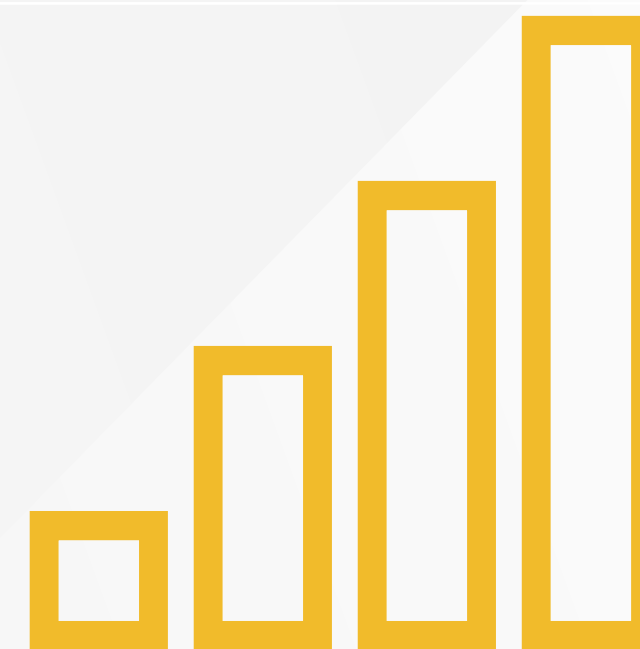
Solutions: Programs and People



Home
Subscription
Supports



Affordable and
Free Devices



Public Networks
and Connections



Digital Navigators



Digital Literacy
Trainings

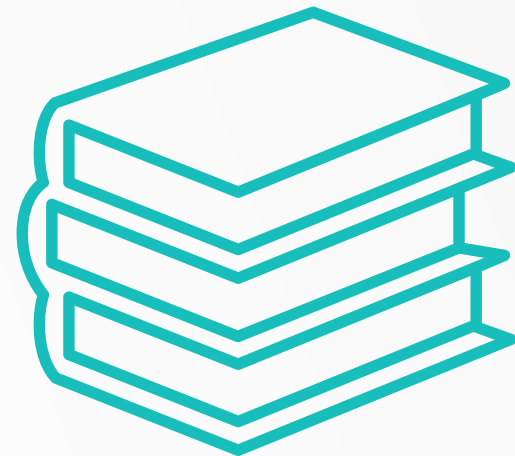


Tech Support

Partnerships: Your Superpower



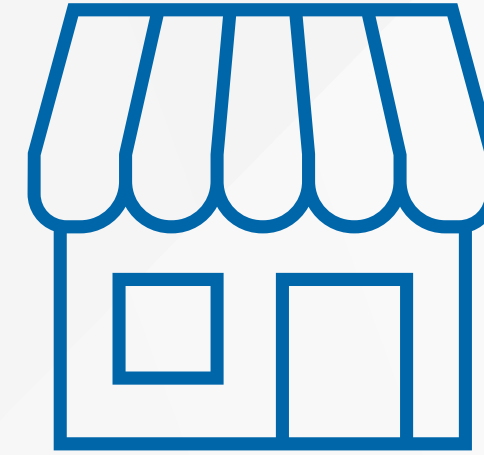
Healthcare Providers



Schools and Libraries



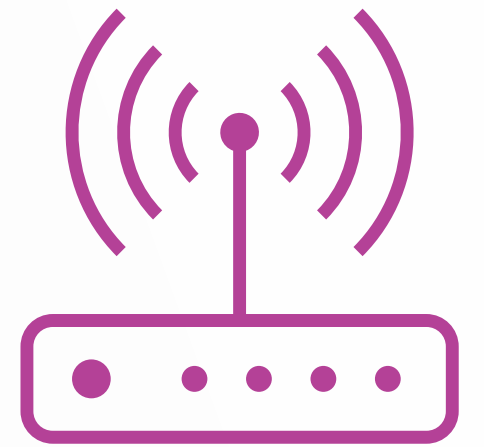
Community Organizations



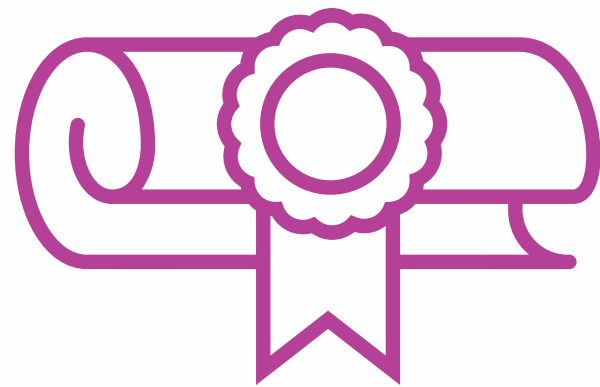
Local Businesses



Other Governments



Internet Service Providers



Higher Education Institutions



Financial Institutions



Housing Authorities



Workforce Development Organizations



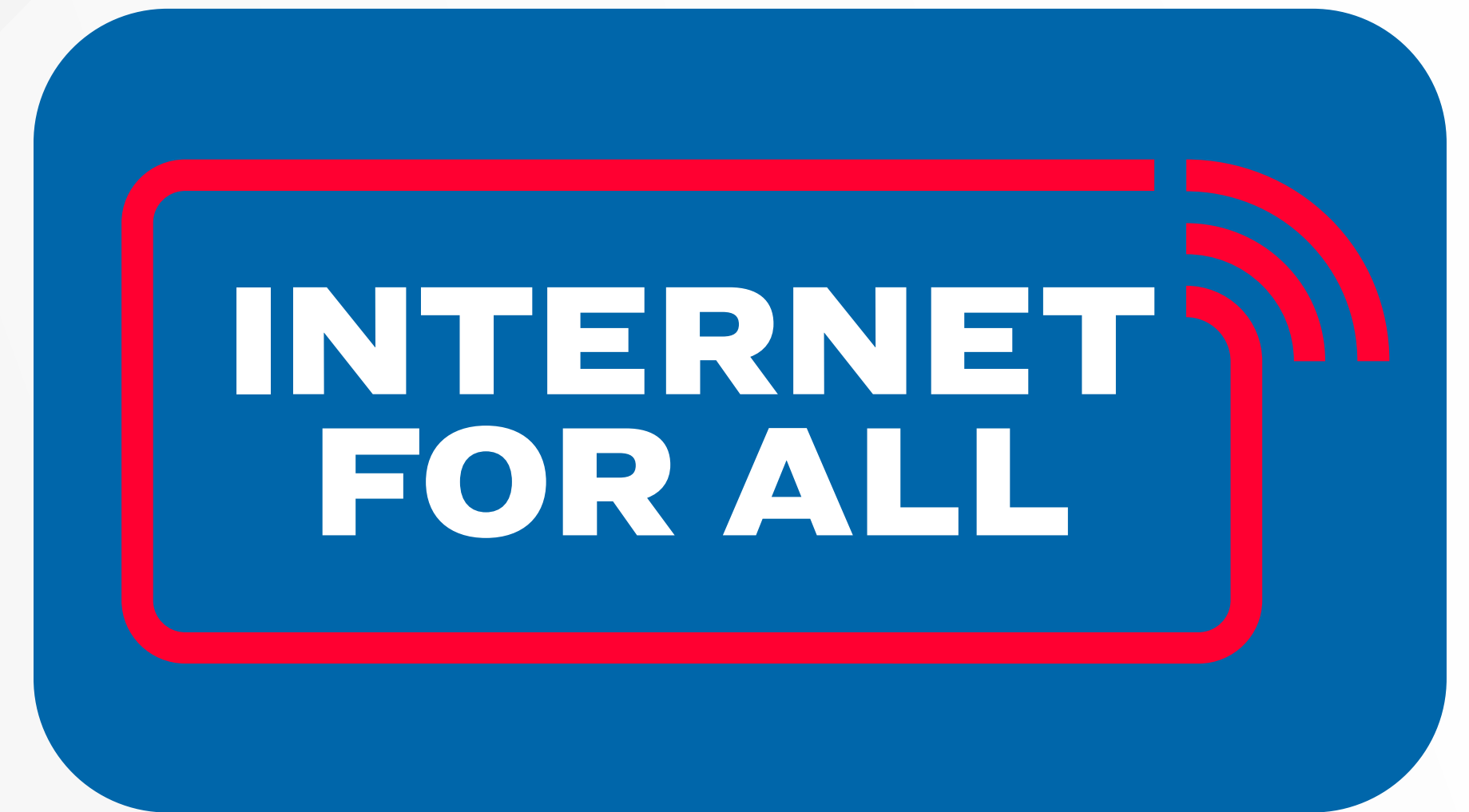
Philanthropies and Foundations



Cultural and Faith Organizations

Untangling the Federal Funding Web

- American Rescue Plan Act
 - SLFRF
 - Capital Projects Fund
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - BEAD
 - Digital Equity Act
 - Affordable Connectivity Program
- Permanent programs: FCC, USDA & others



<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs>

How City Leaders Can Bridge the Digital Divide

Broadband internet has evolved from being a cutting-edge luxury to an essential utility for participation in daily life. Unfortunately, not everyone benefits from this vital tool. Because of barriers in affordability, accessibility or availability, and skills, an estimated 42 million residents in the United States do not have broadband at all, and 157.3 million

live with slow or unreliable internet service.¹ This must change. Cities can be proactive to bridge the digital divide. The Digital Equity Playbook helps city leaders determine causes of the digital divide in their communities, provides recommendations to address it, shares stories from local governments and suggests additional resources.

Broadband is high-speed, reliable internet access, measured in download and upload speeds.

NLC Resources



Digital Equity Playbook

bit.ly/digitalequityplaybook



Local Infrastructure Hub

localinfrastructure.org



Ready to Rebuild Infrastructure Resources

nlc.org/infrastructure

Other Resources

- National Digital Inclusion Alliance
<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/>
- Affordable Connectivity Program Adoption Toolkit for Local Leaders
<https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/acpbenefit/local-leaders-toolkit/>
- BroadbandUSA Local Resources
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/local-government-resources>
- FCC Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Resources
<https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit>

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THANK YOU!

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