



National Digital Inclusion Alliance
digitalinclusion.org/trailblazers

Digital Inclusion Trailblazers is a public inventory of local government initiatives promoting digital literacy and broadband access for underserved residents. NDIA first launched this effort in 2016 as an advocacy tool for local, state and national digital inclusion leadership, and as a handy database of examples for communities interested in taking similar steps themselves.

The digital inclusion field, and local governments' roles in it, have grown and changed a great deal over the past three years. To reflect those changes, NDIA is now launching a new, annual Digital Inclusion Trailblazers designation process.

We invite any local government that fits one or more of these indicators to apply to be a 2020 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer. Complete and submit your local government's application to be a Digital Inclusion Trailblazer at digitalinclusion.org/trailblazers

Indicators:

1. The local government has, or directly funds, at least one full-time staff dedicated to digital inclusion initiatives, policies and/or programs.
2. The local government has a digital inclusion plan or is in the process of developing a plan.
3. Representatives of the local government participate in a digital inclusion coalition.
4. The local government has conducted or plans to conduct and publish survey research on Internet access and use by your residents.
5. The local government directly funds community digital inclusion programming.
6. The local government is taking steps to increase affordability of home broadband service.



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Checklist

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1. Your local government has, or directly funds, at least one full-time staff dedicated to digital inclusion initiatives, policies and/or programs.

Checklist (Must meet 1 of 2):

- There is a dedicated full-time staff person working on digital inclusion initiatives for your government or for a nonprofit entity representing your government for that purpose.
- That staff position is fully funded by your government using public funds or funds granted to your government by another entity.

Required Supporting Documentation: (Must meet 3 of 4):

- Identity and contact information for dedicated digital inclusion staff
- Job description
- Staff's current work plan or performance agreement or MOU between nonprofit entity and local government.
- Government's budget document showing current funding of position

2. Your local government has a digital inclusion plan or is in the process of developing a plan.

Checklist (Must meet 2 of 2):

- Plan includes strategies to support affordable home broadband access, public computer centers, affordable devices and digital literacy.
- Process for developing the plan included active participation of community stakeholders including communities who are in most need of digital literacy and home broadband Internet subscription.

Required Supporting Documentation: (Must meet 1 of 2):

- The plan.
- Documentation for planning process.

Best Practices and Resources

[Collective Impact Forum 3 Steps for Advancing Equity through Collective Impact](#)

3. Representatives of your local government participate in a digital inclusion coalition.

Checklist (Must meet 2 of 3):

- Staff or elected official of your local government serves on a leadership team of the digital inclusion coalition.
- Staff or elected official of your local government participates, in an official capacity, in the local digital inclusion coalition.
- Your local government provides significant material support to the coalition, such as coordinating the meetings, providing meeting space, providing refreshments.

Required Supporting Documentation: (Must meet 2 of 2):

- Documentation of the coalition such as a website or meeting minutes.
- List of organizations that participate in the coalition.

Best Practices and Resources

[NDIA Digital Inclusion Coalition Guidebook](#)

[FSG How to Lead Collective Impact Working Groups](#)

[GARE Racial Equity Toolkit](#)

4. Your local government has conducted or plans to conduct and publish survey research on Internet access and use by your residents.

Checklist (Must meet 2 of 3):

- Data is published online.
- The resulting research includes demographics and/or communities with the greatest digital inequities.
- Conduct a root cause analysis to understand what factors, institutional and systemic barriers are influencing the digital inequities.

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Required Supporting Documentation: (Must meet 1 of 2):

- Publicly available data
- Plan to conduct survey research.

5. Your local government directly funds community digital inclusion programming.

Checklist (Must meet 1 of 2)

- Your local government has been instrumental in securing funds from any source.
- Your local government has appropriated funds that are available annually.

Checklist (Must meet 2 of 3)

- Supports digital literacy training
- Supports assistance to residents acquiring home Internet access
- Supports assistance to residents acquiring a home computing device

Supporting documentation (Must meet 1 of 1):

- Description of the fund and/or application process.
- Grant or contract confirmation letter.

6. Your local government is taking steps to increase affordability of home broadband service.

Checklist:

- Your local government has implemented ordinances or processes to increase broadband competition with at least one end goal being reducing household broadband prices.
- Your local government owns a broadband network and creates one or more broadband service tiers that are more affordable than existing offers.
- Your local government offers free Wi-Fi for the use of residents in the vicinity of their homes, or in public areas where residents have easy access.

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