DIGITAL INCLUSION TRAILBLAZERS
NATIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION ALLIANCE

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 has launched an annual Digital Inclusion Trailblazers designation process.

With support from Google Fiber and help from a Working Group of our affiliates, there are six Digital Inclusion Trailblazer indicators, each with their own accompanying checklist items and documentation requirements. Trailblazer applicants need to meet at least one of these criteria to be eligible to become a Trailblazer

We invite any local government that fits one or more of these indicators to apply to be a 2021 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer. Complete and submit your local government's application to be a Digital Inclusion Trailblazer at digitalinclusion.org/trailblazers.

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):

   1. Identity and contact information for dedicated digital inclusion staff.

   2. Job description.

   3. Staff's current work plan or performance agreement or MOU between nonprofit entity and local government.

   4. Government's budget document showing current funding of position.

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

Best Practices and Resources:

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

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):

1. The plan.

2. Documentation for planning process.

3. Representatives of your local government participate in an open-access digital inclusion coalition

Best Practices and Resources:

[NDIA Digital Inclusion Coalition Guidebook](#)
[FSG How to Lead Collective Impact Working Groups](#)
[GARE Racial Equity Toolkit](#)

Checklist (Must meet 2 of 3):

❏ Staff or elected official of your local government serves on a leadership team of the digital inclusion coalition or collaboration.

❏ 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):

1. Documentation of the coalition such as a website or meeting minutes.

2. List of organizations that participate in the coalition.

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 4):

   - ❏ Research goes beyond existing Census data and other existing publicly available data.

   - ❏ Data, including methodology, 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.

   Required Supporting Documentation (Must meet 1 of 2):

   1. Publicly available data.

   2. 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 2 (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

Required Supporting Documentation (Must meet 1 of 2):

1. Description of the fund and/or application process.

2. Grant or contract confirmation letter.

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

Checklist (Must meet 1 of 4):

❏ 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 or sponsors free broadband service for the use of residents within their homes, at speeds sufficient to accomplish tasks such as distance learning or teleworking.

❏ Local government provides payment assistance for broadband services.

Required Supporting Documentation (Must meet 1 of 2):

1. The local ordinance or document of processes to increase broadband competition with at least one end goal being reducing household broadband prices.

2. Documentation of the municipal broadband network's tier offerings

3. Materials describing or promoting free broadband service for the use of residents within their homes.

4. Materials describing or promoting payment assistance for broadband services.

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digitalinclusion.org/trailblazers

Contact miles@digitalinclusion.org for additional information

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