

New York Digital Inclusion Fund

Digital Inclusion Innovation Grant Guidelines

The Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants will support innovative partnership collaborations between digital inclusion stakeholders to increase the number of New York households connected to affordable broadband, devices, digital literacy training, and technical support that meet their needs.

The goal is to use funding to bring together diverse sets of local organizations to provide digital inclusion resources to their constituents.

Successful proposers will demonstrate the extent to which these funds support innovative partnership collaborations within local communities. We are looking for:

- Pilot initiatives to expand existing digital inclusion programming or create new initiatives that meet the needs of more residents than the community had prior through strategic *partnership collaborations* for unserved and underserved communities in New York.
- Innovative partnership approaches to increasing the number of people connected to broadband, equipped with the devices they need to participate in digital life, digital literacy resources, technical support, and more.

If selected, grantees will be required to attend regular online meetings and will be required to submit interim and final reports detailing how they used the Innovation Grant.

Eligibility

Community-based 501(c)3 organizations based in New York state are eligible to submit for a Digital Inclusion Innovation proposal.

The lead proposer must be a 501(c)3 organization. Proposal partners can include: Community-based organizations, digital inclusion advocates, digital literacy skills platforms, and community anchor institutions (i.e., library, school, medical facility, housing, etc.) that work with any of the following priority populations:

- Immigrants/English Language Learners
- Formerly or Currently Incarcerated Individuals
- Housing Insecure/Homeless Individuals

- Low income households
- Job-seekers
- Older Adults (65 years+)

About the New York Digital Inclusion Fund

The New York Digital Inclusion (NYDI) Fund is designed to support innovative partnership models that accelerate digital inclusion across New York State and recognizes the need for affordable, high-speed internet, devices, and digital skills. It is managed by the [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#) and supported by [Schmidt Futures](#), a philanthropic initiative founded by Eric and Wendy Schmidt.

Proposal Details

Please have the following information ready to input in the Google Form Proposal:

1. Lead proposal organization
2. First name and last name of person submitting proposal
3. Title of person submitting proposal
4. Email
5. Phone number
6. List of partners committed to the project if funding is granted
7. County, counties or region of New York served in your proposal
8. Select your Economic Development Region: Western NY, Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, Central NY, Mohawk Valley, Capital Region, Mid-Hudson, New York City, Long Island and North Country.
9. Which digital inclusion activities and services will this project include?
10. Amount of funds requested: \$50,000 through \$250,000
11. Expected timeline to completion: 1 year or 2 years

Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants

Narrative:

Please address these elements:

Description of proposed digital inclusion services

1. Describe the proposed digital inclusion initiative. Key project elements include: problem background, evidence of addressing the community need, activities and outcomes, etc. (4000 character max)
2. How many community members do you expect to serve? Describe the demographics of your project participants (e.g. low-income, BIPOC, immigrant/refugee, disability, older adults, etc.). (500 character max)
3. How will you determine whether your project is successful? (e.g. intake, testing, self-evaluations, pre/post measures, data collection, etc.). (2500 character max)

4. Describe your partnership model and how you will be coordinating your various project partners. (2500 character max)
5. What do you see as potential barriers to project implementation? What are your thoughts on how to address these barriers? (1250 character max)
6. Describe your preliminary long-term sustainability plan for this initiative. Give us a sense of how you'd like to see the initiative evolve through partnerships with local government, community members, other digital inclusion organizations, etc. (1250 character max)

Budget:

Please submit a budget using the sample [budget template](#) with your proposal. You may consider including:

A description of how you plan to spend grant funds

- Staffing (direct staffing costs such as trainers, project coordination, etc.)
- Contracted/Professional Services (e.g. payments to independent contractors, external organizations, meeting space rental for training/workshops, etc.)
- Hardware & software purchases (smart boards, printers, etc) for project participants to borrow or own.
- Internet subscription costs
- Supplies and materials (including peripherals, headsets, cameras, etc.)
- Project-based food and travel needs
- Communications materials (e.g. printing, postage/delivery, outreach, social media graphics, etc.)
- Overhead (e.g. administration, rent/space, utilities, data processing, repairs, maintenance, etc.)

Timeline:

Please submit a timeline using the sample [timeline template](#) with your proposal. You may want to consider including:

A short description of what you plan to achieve and when

1. Activities completed
2. Outcomes
3. Due date

Proposal Submission

- The proposal deadline is *Friday, October 15, 2021 at 11:59 pm, EST.*
- To apply:
 - Complete the [Google Form](#)
 - Send one email with separate PDF attachments for both the project [timeline](#) and [budget](#) to NYDIFund@digitalinclusion.org with the subject line: **Coalition_YourOrgNameHere** or **Innovation_YourOrgNameHere** depending on the type of grant you are applying for.
- An email will be sent to you acknowledging receipt of your proposal.

If you have questions or technical difficulties, please reach out to Miles Miller, Program Associate, NDIA at nydifund@digitalinclusion.org

Proposal Review

Your proposal will be reviewed by an independent advisory board against criteria described above using the rubric below. You will be notified of the status of your proposal by *December 22, 2021.*

Description of digital inclusion services to be provided	30
Evidence of addressing community needs and how potential barriers are addressed.	20
Diversity of partners (e.g. partnerships between different types of organizations: libraries partnered with digital inclusion advocates, and not a library partnered with another library).	10
Explanation of how success will be measured	10
Description of your sustainability plan (e.g. state-based or other institutional funding sources) to support digital inclusion work after the grant period.	10
Timeline (What are the proposed outcomes and timeline for completion?)	10
Budget: Use of grant funds (Were the costs researched? Do the projected expenses make sense in relation to what is proposed?)	10

