

New York Digital Inclusion Fund FAQs

Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants FAQs

Who is eligible to apply for the Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants?

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 (e.g., libraries, schools, medical facilities, housing, etc.) that work with any of the following priority populations:

- Immigrants/refugees/English language learners
- Formerly or currently incarcerated individuals
- Housing insecure/individuals experiencing homelessness
- Low-income households
- People with disabilities
- Job-seekers
- Older adults (65 years+)

How long is the Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants period?

Grant goals must be achieved and funds spent within 24 months of when the grant funds were awarded. Applicants can define their grant period as 12 or 24 months.

What are the goals of the Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants?

The goal is to use funding to bring together diverse sets of local organizations who have a stake in providing digital inclusion resources to their constituents.

Successful applicants will demonstrate the extent to which these funds support innovative partnership collaborations between digital inclusion stakeholders within local communities. We are looking for:

- Partnership-based 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.
- 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.

Are the Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants designed to support regional efforts?

The Digital Inclusion Innovation Grants will not be explicitly tied to specific economic regions in New York state. Grants will be awarded to funding the most innovative initiatives across the state, regardless of where they come from.

When are applications due?

June 1, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EDT

When will successful grant applicants be notified?

You will be notified of the status of your grant application by July 31, 2022.

I am interested in addressing digital inclusion in my community. However, I am new to this and don't know where to start.

Check out NDIA's [Digital Inclusion Startup Manual](#) to guide you.

How many stakeholder partners should be involved for the smaller scale partnerships supported by the Innovation Grants? 2-5 organizations will probably work best, however, the number of partners involved depends on your community needs and the goals outlined in your grant application.

What is a Long Term Sustainability Plan?

The Long Term Sustainability Plan is your long-term plan for how to continue offering your project services after the grant period has ended. The Innovation Grant is an initial investment that is intended to support pilot projects that will secure funding after this grant period has ended to continue offering the services of the project.

How much funding is available for the Innovation Grant?

Grant applications can range from \$50,000-\$250,000 for either a 12-month or 24-month grant. The Innovation Grant is competitive and will fund the best proposals that identify needs and effective solutions. The budget you propose should explain and justify the total funds requested for the timeline of the proposed project.

Can I use the Innovation Grant for project planning?

No. The Innovation Grant is intended to support projects that can be implemented as soon as possible (planning can be a component but not the full focus of the grant). If planning is the focus of your project, consider if it would be appropriate for the Coalition Planning Grant application.

Does my organization need to have nonprofit status to apply for a grant?

We require that the organization submitting the grant application, the Lead Applicant, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit or charity. However, any organization that meets the requirements described above are eligible to participate in a partnership.

Do all partners need to apply for the grant or should one partner apply?

No, only one application is needed per partnership. We suggest identifying a single point of contact, the Lead Applicant, to represent the partnership in the application.

How will funds be dispersed if selected to receive a grant?

Funds will be dispersed in one lump sum to the Lead Applicant and dissemination of funds will be based on the grant deliverables and timeline. The Lead Applicant will be responsible for any sub-grant disbursements to partner organizations (which should be outlined in the Budget of the RFP).

Where can I watch the recording of the webinars if I was unable to attend?

The webinars can be viewed at <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/nydifund/>. Please email us at nydifund@digitalinclusion.org if you would like us to email you a contact list of potential partner organizations that self-identified in the chat of the webinars.

What will the proposal require? How will RFPs be evaluated?

Please see the [RFP Guidelines for the Innovation Grants](#) for details on what to include in your RFP and the rubric that the panel will use to evaluate each proposal.

If you have any other questions, please contact NDIA at nydifund@digitalinclusion.org.