

Digital Inclusion Trailblazers: Recognition for Local Governments

About Trailblazers

[Digital Inclusion Trailblazers](#) are municipal, county, or regional governments that are paving the way and providing excellent models for digitally inclusive communities. They are intentional. They are invested. They are committed to advancing digital equity.

The Trailblazers recognition isn't just an award — it's also a collection of valuable resources. The places selected as Trailblazers provide models to aspire to, demonstrating how local governments can support their own digital inclusion ecosystems.

Digital inclusion advocates should also use Trailblazers as an advocacy tool. Make your municipal leaders aware of this program, and encourage them to use the categories and resources as a beacon to inform their own digital inclusion plans.

Purpose and Value

To uphold the spirit of the program and the prestige of reaching Trailblazer status, NDIA, with input from local government practitioners, established four guiding principles to illustrate the purpose and value of the program.

The Digital Inclusion Trailblazers program:

1. Sets a **national standard for excellent digital inclusion work**. Backed by NDIA's trusted expertise, Trailblazers is now the country's benchmark for local governments.
2. Establishes an **honor roll** that bestows prestige on local governments that achieve Trailblazer status
3. Serves as a free and open **knowledge database** for digital inclusion resources and information tried and tested by local governments in their communities
4. **Promotes digital inclusion work** and creates an incentive for local communities to articulate their digital inclusion efforts and make them official

Who Can Apply

Digital Inclusion Trailblazers accepts [applications](#) from local governments.

Local governments eligible to apply include:

- Municipalities, townships, counties, and regional governments

Trailblazer Categories

1. Dedicate Resources

2. Fund or Aid Digital Inclusion Programs
3. Participate in Digital Inclusion Ecosystem
4. Engage the Community
5. Advance Digital Inclusion Through Policy
6. Use Data to Inform Digital Inclusion
7. Create a Local Digital Inclusion Plan

Contact

Aaron Schill: aaron@digitalinclusion.org
Paolo Balboa: paolo@digitalinclusion.org
Miles Miller: miles@digitalinclusion.org

Thanks to 2023 Trailblazers Sponsor

