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# INTERNET FOR ALL

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## Digital Equity Plan Guidance for Territories



U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

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# Internet For All

## Introduction

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### *Overview of the Digital Equity Plan Components*

A Territory that receives funding from the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program may submit to the Assistant Secretary a Digital Equity Plan that establishes the Territory's<sup>1</sup> vision for digital equity in the context of its overarching strategy and goals. The Digital Equity Plan will be a key component of any application the Territory may later submit seeking a State Digital Equity Capacity grant.

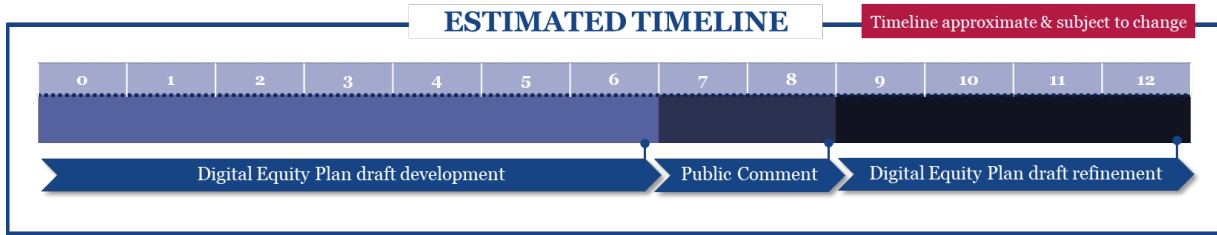
Territory Digital Equity Plans need to be driven by their broader policy goals that intentionally amplify the objectives of stakeholders including Community Based Organizations (CBOs), regional government entities, and local government entities.

A Territory's Digital Equity Plan may include 15 components, which are detailed in the [State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\), Section IV.C.1.b](#). The Digital Equity Plan components outlined in this document are aspirational, and Territories need not exhaustively address every component if it does not seem relevant to the Territory in question. *See* NOFO Section IV.C.1.c.

Within one year of the date on which a Territory is awarded State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program funds, that Territory is encouraged to develop a Digital Equity Plan, solicit and respond to public comments on the draft plan, and finalize that draft plan. The Territory is encouraged to submit the DE plan to NTIA within the one-year award period (unless extended). *See* Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Section 60304(c)(3)(C)(ii)(I). NTIA may extend the award period for up to 180 days based on a written request from a recipient. Extension requests should be submitted not later than 90 calendar days before the end of the award period. However, the Assistant Secretary will be reluctant to grant a waiver except in extraordinary circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Territory" means, for the purposes of the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States that is not a State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.



An online template for the Digital Equity Plan is available, and the use of this template is optional.

If a Territory has previously conducted a digital equity planning effort, it may demonstrate to NTIA that the resulting plan fully complies with the Section 60304(c) of the Infrastructure Act and the NOFO, including all minimum elements as listed in Section IV.C.1.b.

NTIA will continue to release resources to assist Territories in comprehensively meeting the State Digital Equity Planning Grant components; these resources will be released on InternetForAll.gov.

### Human Subjects Research Requirements

As part of your activities to develop a Digital Equity Plan, you may implicate rules regarding Human Subjects Research (HSR). All State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program recipients must comply with Department of Commerce regulations relating to the protection of human subjects for all research conducted or supported pursuant to a NTIA grant award. The Department’s policies related to the protection of human subjects are found in 15 C.F.R. Part 27. All proposed research involving human subjects must be conducted in accordance with 15 C.F.R. Part 27. No research involving human subjects is permitted under this award unless expressly authorized by specific award condition (SAC).

### Five-Year Action Plan and Territory Digital Equity Plan Alignment

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program was authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (November 15, 2021), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. BEAD provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

It is anticipated that each Eligible Entity participating in the BEAD Program will concurrently participate in the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, and in many of the 13 components of the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan, there are opportunities to infuse digital inclusion activities to both satisfy components of the Territory Digital Equity Plan and ensure that digital inclusion is a core component of broadband planning. **Thus, if there are multiple teams developing the Five-Year Action Plan and the Territory Digital Equity Plan, the teams should consistently and formally collaborate in order to consolidate efforts and limit confusion for mutually relevant stakeholders.**

Component 11 of the Five-Year Action Plan may be satisfied by the completion of a State or Territory Digital Equity Plan under the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.

### How to use the Digital Equity Guidance and Template

The following pages include a proposed structure and associated guidance to meet the 15 components for the Digital Equity Plan. The proposed structure for the Digital Equity Plan includes six sections:

- [Executive Summary](#);
- [Introduction and Vision for Digital Equity](#);
- [Current State of Digital Equity](#);
- [Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement](#);
- [Implementation](#); and
- [Conclusion](#).

NTIA recommends that Territories develop an understanding of the current state of Digital Equity and a plan for collaboration and stakeholder engagement before finalizing the goals and strategies to move towards digital equity within a Territory.

The [appendix](#) includes:

- A list of the Digital Equity Plan's 5 statutory components and 10 additional components, as written in the NOFO, Section IV.C.1.b.

The attachments include:

- A template for the Digital Equity Plan

The guidance and template are structured to align with the NOFO's 15 total components. As such, the sections of the guidance with these components include call-out boxes with the NOFO language for reference. Each call-out box will feature the page number of the NOFO to locate the component, as well as the location number of the component within the Statutory Components (NOFO Section IV.C.1.b.i) or Additional Components section (NOFO Section IV.C.1.b.ii). For the purposes of this document, the word "State" has been modified to "Territory" when referencing NOFO language.

The guidance also includes an overview of the purpose of each proposed section, importance of the content for the success of the program and other optional information and/or data that the Territory may consider when developing the Digital Equity Plan.

# 1 Executive Summary

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The Territory should aim to provide a clear and concise summary of the Digital Equity Plan. The Executive Summary should restate the purpose and summarize the key points of the Digital Equity Plan.

## 2 Introduction & Vision for Digital Equity

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### 2.1 Vision

**Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), page 21:**

- A stated vision for digital equity Additional Req.1

The purpose of this section is to provide a clear, specific picture of the Territory’s vision for digital equity. As part of this vision, Territories should define digital equity in the context of their Territory.

Each Territory may use this section to describe what success looks like for their Territory, inform strategies, serve as a guide for setting goals and objectives, and determine the activities the Territory will prioritize in the Digital Equity Plan.

Territories that are also utilizing funding from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program should ensure that the programs and plans are coordinated and that the visions for BEAD and digital equity are aligned.



**What should grantees describe for their vision?**

Grantees should focus on describing what success looks like for their Territory, and it should inform strategies and serve as a guide for setting goals and objectives:

- What will digital equity look like in in the context of your Territory?
- What are the broad goals that should be accomplished in executing this plan? (e.g., improve rural health outcomes, increase underrepresented youth employment in technology-related fields)

## 2.2 Alignment with Existing Efforts to Improve Outcomes

### Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), pages 20-22:

- An assessment of how the measurable objectives identified in item 2 of this Section IV.C.1.b.i will impact and interact with the [Territory’s]—
  - a. Economic and workforce development goals, plans, and outcomes;
  - b. Educational outcomes;
  - c. Health outcomes;
  - d. Civic and social engagement; and
  - e. Delivery of other essential services. Statutory Req.3
- A description of how municipal, regional, and/or Tribal digital equity plans will be incorporated into the Digital Equity Plan. Additional Req.5  
 A description of how the [Territory] will coordinate its use of State Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and its use of any funds it receives in connection with the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, other federal or private digital equity funding. Additional Req.10

The purpose of this section is to describe how the Digital Equity Plan is aligned to the Territory’s priorities and other existing or planned efforts in the Territory, and how the Territory will coordinate its use of funds from the Territory Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, and/or any other federal or private sources. Territories should detail how the stated objectives for digital equity will impact and interact with the broader efforts and goals of the Territory.

This section must describe how existing municipal, regional, and/or Tribal digital equity plans are incorporated into the Digital Equity Plan. It must also detail how the stated objectives for digital equity will impact and interact with the following broader efforts and goals of the Territory:

- Economic and workforce development goals, plans, and outcomes
- Educational outcomes
- Health outcomes
- Civic and social engagement
- Delivery of other essential services

### 2.3 Strategy and Objectives

In this section, Territories should provide an overview of the overarching strategies for driving towards the vision outlined in section 2.1. While broadband affordability and adoption are key tenets of the Digital Equity Act Programs, Territories should strive to think about how increased access to high-speed internet can drive equitable outcomes outside of these areas and develop strategies to use Digital Equity funds in service of those goals.

For example:

Goal	Strategy
Improve rural health outcomes	Build capacity of rural health centers and libraries to increase use of telehealth
Increase underrepresented youth employment in technology-related fields	Build career pathways related to in-demand industry sectors and occupations

After laying out overarching strategies, Territories can lay out measurable tactics and objectives for meeting these goals.

**Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), pages 20-22:**

- Measurable objectives for documenting and promoting, among each Covered Population located in that [Territory]—
  - The availability of, and affordability of access to, fixed and wireless broadband technology;
  - The online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services;



- Digital literacy;
- Awareness of, and the use of, measures to secure the online privacy of, and cybersecurity with respect to, an individual; and
- The availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices. Statutory Req.2
- An implementation strategy that is holistic and addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world, including affordability, devices, digital skills, technical support, and digital navigation. The strategy should (a) establish measurable goals, objectives, and proposed core activities to address the needs of covered populations, (b) set out measures ensuring the plan’s sustainability and effectiveness across Territory communities, and (c) adopt mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated. Additional Req. 6

In this section, Territories should provide an overview of the measurable objectives to realize the vision for digital equity in their Territory. The objectives outlined in the Digital Equity Plan will inform the plan’s implementation strategy and should ensure the plan’s sustainability and effectiveness. As such, each Territory should consider long-term objectives for closing the digital divide by addressing the needs of covered populations.

The measurable objectives should document and promote the following among each covered population in the Territory:

	<b>Broadband Availability &amp; Affordability</b>		<b>Online Privacy &amp; Cybersecurity</b>
	<b>Online Accessibility &amp; Inclusivity</b>		<b>Device Availability &amp; Affordability</b>
	<b>Digital Literacy</b>		

For each topic above, provide a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to measure progress, a baseline measure (if available), and a near-term and a long-term target.

These measures can differ depending on what data is available and what the Territory’s priorities are. For example, there are multiple factors affecting broadband affordability. Measures can focus on the price factor; other measures can focus on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which impacts the effective price for consumers.

*Example: Price*

- **KPI:** Average price of a monthly Internet subscription at 25/3
- **Baseline:** \$X.XX average monthly Internet cost
- **Near-term Target:** 5% decrease
- **Long-term Target:** 20% decrease

*Example: Participation in ACP*

- **KPI:** Number of territory residents enrolled in ACP
- **Baseline:** X residents
- **Near-term Target:** 30% increase
- **Long-term Target:** 100% increase

Where possible, Territories should create these measurable objectives with specifications for each covered population. For example, include information about ACP participation among low- income households, aging individuals, and so on. These measurable objectives should inform the collaboration and stakeholder engagement strategy as well as data collection practices so that the data can be standardized and validated.

## 3 Current State of Digital Equity: Barriers and Assets

### 3.1 Asset Inventory

#### Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), page 21:

- An asset inventory, including current resources, programs, and strategies that promote digital equity for each of the covered populations, whether publicly or privately funded, as well as existing digital equity plans and programs already in place among municipal, regional, and Tribal governments. Additional Req.3

The purpose of this section is to catalogue the applicant’s unique assets that promote digital equity for each of the Territory’s covered populations, including current resources, programs, and strategies. Both publicly and privately funded assets should be included. The asset inventory should also include existing digital equity plans and programs among municipal, regional, and Tribal governments.

The asset inventory will identify the resources available to implement the Digital Equity Plan and to address the needs and gaps to achieve the Territory’s goals and objectives for digital equity. An asset mapping resource will be released to aid Territories in documenting digital equity assets.

#### 3.1.1 Digital Inclusion Assets by Covered Population

Identify digital inclusion assets in the [Territory] that support the various covered populations. Keep in mind that multiple assets could exist for a single covered population and that some assets could support multiple covered populations.

Potential resources the [Territory] may consider as they conduct their asset inventory are outlined in the following sub-sections, 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

#### 3.1.2 Existing Digital Equity Plans

Catalogue digital equity plans and programs instituted by municipalities, regions, and/or Tribes that also have a presence in the [Territory]. Be sure to note gaps in existing programs.

#### 3.1.3 Existing Digital Equity Programs

Catalogue digital equity plans and programs instituted by municipalities, regions, and/or Tribes that also have a presence in the [Territory]. Be sure to note gaps in existing programs.

In addition to the relevant components above, Territories may also choose to include information or resources related to digital inclusion, including existing policies, mapping, or other technological resources used to inform broadband-related activities, studies and best practices, or outreach endeavors.

### 3.1.4 Broadband Adoption

Territories may identify and detail the assets in the Territory, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Percentage of residents within the Territory who have adopted broadband;
- Programs that provide digital literacy and digital skills training, including:
  - Digital skills training in service of workforce development;
- Programs that provide subsidized or low-cost devices (e.g., computers, tablets) (devices);
- Digital Navigator programs;
- Programs that conduct awareness and outreach activities of digital inclusion programming and resources (e.g., marketing and awareness campaigns);
- Existing ISP programs that promote adoption (e.g., adoption campaigns, lifeline, low-cost plans, digital inclusion initiatives);
- Incentives (e.g., subsidies, tax benefits) for incorporation of broadband across different sectors (e.g., education, agriculture, economic development, telemedicine);
- Public computing labs;
- Loaner computer/hotspot programs;
- Programs that offer discounted or low-cost devices with affordable maintenance costs;
- K-12 school system one-to-one computer programs;
- Computer refurbishing programs; and/or
- Digital equity/inclusion coalitions.

While assessing the current landscape of broadband adoption, Territories should understand the population of high-speed internet users who engage in *meaningful use*, referring to how an individual uses their digital literacy skills to enhance educational and employment opportunities.

### 3.1.5 Broadband Affordability

Territories may identify and detail the efforts in the Territory, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- The number of residents eligible for the ACP, the percentage of eligible residents who have accessed the ACP, and the steps taken to increase enrollment in the ACP;
- Discount or subsidized broadband service and equipment programs;
- Utility assistance programs for consumers with limited incomes; and/or
- Provider agreements and contracts that are near expiration (i.e., provide the opportunity for new agreements and contracts that provide more affordable broadband services).

## 3.2 Needs Assessment

**Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), pages 20-21:**

- Identification of barriers to digital equity faced by Covered Populations in the [Territory].  
Statutory Req.1
- A digital equity needs assessment, including a comprehensive assessment of the baseline from which the [Territory] is working and the [Territory’s] identification of the barriers to digital equity faced generally and by each of the covered populations in the [Territory].  
Additional Req.2

The purpose of this section is to identify the baseline from which the Territory is working and the barriers to digital equity, especially those that covered populations encounter. Barriers could be related to affordability, devices, digital skills, technical support, and digital navigation.

The needs assessment will serve as a current baseline from which the Territory can measure its progress toward digital equity. Identifying barriers and conducting a needs assessment will require data collection, both qualitative and quantitative, as well as analysis and evaluation.

**What data sources are available to use?**



[NTIA Internet Use Survey](#)



[NTIA Indicators of Broadband Need Map](#)



[American Community Survey](#)



**IMPORTANT:**

If data or other information is unclear or unavailable, identify plans to clarify and/or obtain this data.

**3.2.1 Covered Population Needs Assessment**

Identify barriers to digital equity that covered populations in the Territory face. Many barriers will have an associated need. Keep in mind that multiple barriers and needs could exist for a single covered population and that some barriers and needs are experienced by multiple covered populations. Barriers could include factors such as geography, de facto segregation, lack of education, lack of trust, and/or lack of institutional knowledge.

**3.2.2 Broadband Adoption**

Territories may identify and detail the Territory’s needs and barriers, which could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Improved digital literacy;
- Increased household broadband subscription;
- Increased households, businesses, and CAIs with access to internet-capable devices; and/or

- Increased emphasis on multi-sector strategies to broadband adoption (e.g., from educational, agricultural, economic development, and telemedicine perspectives).

### 3.2.3 Broadband Affordability

Territories may identify and detail the needs and gaps in the Territory, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Increased support for enrollment in assistance programs (such as ACP) for low-income consumers; and/or
- Increased financial assistance for low-income consumers;
- Increased options for broadband services, including a wider range of low-cost services.

## 4 Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

### 4.1 Coordination and Outreach Strategy

#### Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), pages 20-22:

[A] description of how the [Territory] plans to collaborate with key constituencies in the [Territory], which may include:

- a. Community anchor institutions;
- b. County and municipal governments;
- c. Local educational agencies;
- d. Where applicable, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations;
- e. Nonprofit organizations;
- f. Organizations that represent—
  - i. Individuals with disabilities, including organizations that represent children with disabilities;
  - ii. Aging Individuals;
  - iii. Individuals with language barriers, including 1) Individuals who are English learners; and 2) Individuals who have low levels of literacy;
  - iv. Veterans; and
  - v. Individuals in that Territory who are incarcerated in facilities other than Federal correctional facilities;
- g. Civil rights organizations;
- h. Entities that carry out workforce development programs;
- i. Agencies of the Territory that are responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the Territory;
- j. Public housing authorities in the [Territory]; and
- k. A partnership between any of the entities described [above.] Statutory Req.4
- A list of organizations with which the Administering Entity for the [Territory] collaborated in developing the Plan. Statutory Req.5
- To the extent not addressed in connection with item 4 of Section IV.C.1.b.i (Statutory Component 4), a coordination and outreach strategy, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with representatives of each category of covered populations within the Territory and with the full range of stakeholders within the [Territory]. Additional Req.4
- A description of how the [Territory] intends to accomplish the implementation strategy described above by engaging or partnering with:

- Workforce agencies such as territory workforce agencies and territory/local workforce boards and workforce organizations;
- Labor organizations and community-based organizations; and
- Institutions of higher learning, including but not limited to four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, education and training providers, and educational service agencies Additional Req.8

The purpose of this section is for the Territory to:

- Identify key external collaborators and constituencies the Territory collaborated with to develop the Digital Equity Plan
- Detail its coordination and outreach strategy to collaborate, including opportunities for public comment and ongoing engagement, to achieve the Territory’s digital equity goals and objectives
- Describe how the Territory will implement its strategy by partnering with workforce agencies, labor organizations, and institutions of higher of learning

Successful workforce policy implementation is one level Eligible Entities can use to build equity into all Internet For All programs. Territories that are also utilizing funding from the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program should ensure that the outreach and engagement plans to state and local agencies in economic development, health, and education are coordinated across the two programs.

**What are key organizations to include?**

- Community anchor institutions
- County and municipal governments
- Local educational agencies
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Organizations that represent covered populations
- Civil rights organization
- Entities that conduct workforce development programs
- Territory agencies responsible for adult education and literacy activities
- Public housing authorities

## 5 Implementation

### 5.1 Implementation Strategy & Key Activities

#### Relevant Components from the [NOFO](#), page 22:

- An implementation strategy that is holistic and addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world, including affordability, devices, digital skills, technical support, and digital navigation. The strategy should (a) establish measurable goals, objectives, and proposed core activities to address the needs of covered populations, (b) set out measures ensuring the plan’s sustainability and effectiveness across [Territory] communities, and (c) adopt mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated. Additional Req.6
- An explanation of how the implementation strategy addresses gaps in existing state/territory, local, and private efforts to address the barriers identified pursuant to Section IV.C.1.b.i, item 1, of this NOFO (Statutory Component 1). Additional Req.7

The purpose of this section is to outline the foundational strategy and key activities that will inform the Territory’s Request for Proposal (RFP) for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. The implementation strategy should be holistic and include activities that address the barriers to digital equity identified in the Current State of Digital Inclusion section of the plan, as well as address the gaps in existing state, local, and private efforts to address those barriers.

The implementation strategy must:

- Establish core activities to achieve the stated goals and objectives;
- Incorporate measures to ensure the plan is sustainable and effective across Territory communities; and
- Adopt mechanisms to ensure the plan is regularly evaluated and updated.

To determine the implementation strategy and key activities, Territories should draw from the findings of the Asset Inventory and Assessment of Needs & Barriers sections. Territories must clearly lay out their strategy, the barriers addressed, measurable goals, corresponding activities, and estimated timeline.

### 5.2 Timeline

#### Relevant Component from the [NOFO](#), pages 22:

- A timeline for implementation of the plan. Additional Req.9

The purpose of this section is to provide a timeline for the implementation of the plan. Territories may consider including conditions that could impact the estimated timeline, such as those that would extend or escalate the timeline.

## 6 Conclusion

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The purpose of this section is to provide a conclusion that reiterates the purpose and the key points of the Territory Digital Equity Plan.

Each Territory may also choose to provide insight into the impact of its execution on digital inclusion for the Territory.



## 7 Appendices

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### 7.1 Digital Equity Plan Statutory Components

The statutory components for the contents of Digital Equity Plans are set forth in Section 60304(c)(1) of the Infrastructure Act, and are listed below and in Section IV.C.1.b.i of the State Digital Equity Planning Grant NOFO. For the purposes of this document, the word “State” has been modified to “Territory” when referencing NOFO language.

1. Identification of barriers to digital equity faced by Covered Populations in the Territory.
2. Measurable objectives for documenting and promoting, among each Covered Population located in that Territory—
  - a. The availability of, and affordability of access to, fixed and wireless broadband
  - b. technology;
  - c. The online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services;
  - d. Digital literacy;
  - e. Awareness of, and the use of, measures to secure the online privacy of, and cybersecurity with respect to, an individual; and
  - f. The availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices.
3. An assessment of how the measurable objectives identified in item 2 above will impact and interact with the Territory’s—
  - a. Economic and workforce development goals, plans, and outcomes;
  - b. Educational outcomes;
  - c. Health outcomes;
  - d. Civic and social engagement; and
  - e. Delivery of other essential services.
4. In order to achieve the measurable objectives identified in item 2 above, a description of how the Territory plans to collaborate with key stakeholders in the Territory, which may include—
  - a. Community anchor institutions;
  - b. County and municipal governments;
  - c. Local educational agencies;
  - d. Where applicable, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations;
  - e. Nonprofit organizations;
  - f. Organizations that represent—
    - i. Individuals with disabilities, including organizations that represent children with disabilities;

- ii. Aging Individuals;
  - iii. Individuals with language barriers, including—
    - 1. Individuals who are English learners; and
    - 2. Individuals who have low levels of literacy;
  - iv. Veterans; and
  - v. Individuals in that Territory who are incarcerated in facilities other than Federal correctional facilities;
  - g. Civil rights organizations;
  - h. Entities that carry out workforce development programs;
  - i. Agencies of the Territory that are responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the Territory;
  - j. Public housing authorities in the Territory; and
  - k. A partnership between any of the entities described in clauses (a) through (k).
5. A list of organizations with which the Administering Entity for the State collaborated in developing the Plan.

## 7.2 Digital Equity Plan Additional Components

In addition to the above components, the State Digital Equity Plan developed with planning grant funds shall, at a minimum, include the following:

1. A stated vision for digital equity;
2. A digital equity needs assessment, including a comprehensive assessment of the baseline from which the State is working and the Territory’s identification of the barriers to digital equity faced generally and by each of the covered populations in the Territory;
3. An asset inventory, including current resources, programs, and strategies that promote digital equity for each of the covered populations, whether publicly or privately funded, as well as existing digital equity plans and programs already in place among municipal, regional, and Tribal governments;
4. To the extent not addressed in connection with item 4 of the State Digital Equity Planning Grant NOFO, Section IV.C.1.b.i, a coordination and outreach strategy, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with representatives of each category of covered populations within the State and with the full range of stakeholders within the Territory;
5. A description of how municipal, regional, and/or Tribal digital equity plans will be incorporated into the Digital Equity Plan;
6. An implementation strategy that is holistic and addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world, including affordability, devices, digital skills, technical support, and digital navigation. The strategy should (a) establish measurable goals, objectives, and proposed core activities to address the needs of covered populations, (b) set out measures ensuring the plan’s sustainability and effectiveness across Territory communities, and (c) adopt mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated;

7. An explanation of how the implementation strategy addresses gaps in existing state/territory, local, and private efforts to address the barriers identified pursuant to Section IV.C.1.b.i, item 1, of the State Digital Equity Planning Grant NOFO;
8. A description of how the Territory intends to accomplish the implementation strategy described above by engaging or partnering with:
  - a. Workforce agencies such as state workforce agencies and state/local workforce boards and workforce organizations;
  - b. Labor organizations and community-based organizations; and
  - c. Institutions of higher learning, including but not limited to four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, education and training providers, and educational service agencies;
9. A timeline for implementation of the plan; and
10. A description of how the Territory will coordinate its use of Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and its use of any funds it receives in connection with the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, other federal or private digital equity funding.