



Equity & Inclusion in Municipalities

Aug. 31, 2022

Sponsored by NCTA/Comcast/Charter

Local governments play a crucial role in the development of equity and inclusion programs and initiatives that serve to mitigate biases and ensure equitable allocation of public resources to all communities.

This conversation will highlight efforts across the country to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in our communities.

Speakers:

Nadine Bridges, Executive Director, One Colorado

Glenn Williams, General Manager, Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN Media)

Alex Minard, Vice President & State Legislative Counsel, NCTA

Jasmine Thomas, Senior Director, Airband US, Microsoft

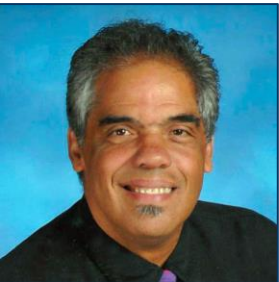
Moderator: Mike Lynch, City of Boston, MA

Equity & Inclusion in Municipalities



*Nadine
Bridges,
ED*

*One
Colorado*



**Glenn
Williams
GM**

BNN Media



**Mike Lynch, Boston cable
guy & your moderator!**



**Alex
Minard,
VP & State
Legislative
Counsel,
NCTA**



*Jasmine
Thomas,
Senior
Director,
Airband US,
Microsoft*



Equity & Inclusion in Municipalities

“Media that is truly for the public must be accessible to people in different, disparate places and commit itself to the exploration of alternative possibilities. “

Viewers Like You -- Public access programming, past and present

by Alexandria Neason, staff writer at Columbia Journalism Review

<https://existential.cjr.org/where/public-access-livestreams-twitch/>



Equity & Inclusion in Municipalities

NATOA Files Comments in FCC's Digital Discrimination Docket

📅 May 17, 2022

in Top Issues

NATOA filed [comments](#) in response to the FCC's [Notice of Inquiry](#) (NOI) on prevention and elimination of digital discrimination. The NOI will lay the groundwork for a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to address section 60506 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which requires the FCC to adopt rules, not later than two years after enactment of the Act, "to facilitate equal access to broadband internet access service." Among other obligations associated with this provision, the FCC must "develop model policies and best practices that can be adopted by States and localities to ensure that broadband internet access service providers do not engage in digital discrimination."

NATOA's comments made three main points:

1. While section 60506 does not grant the Commission unlimited authority, to meet the goals of that section, the Commission should ensure that its rules and policies broadly address all issues that impact equitable access to broadband, including affordability.
2. Local governments are essential partners in addressing digital and deployment discrimination. Work by local governments to address digital discrimination and prevent redlining serve as examples for the Commission in implementing section 60506.
3. The Commission should not just enact new rules in this docket, but also revisit policies that may have inhibited efforts to address digital discrimination or may interfere with future efforts to achieve the goals of section 60506.

Reply Comments are due by June 30th in [Docket No. GN 22-69](#).

<https://files.fcc.gov/ecfs/download/fe88e5c1-cb41-4610-887d-568b80d11a5c?orig=true&pk=cb77b2ec-1a58-dbc6-139b-ad192cfd5d9b>

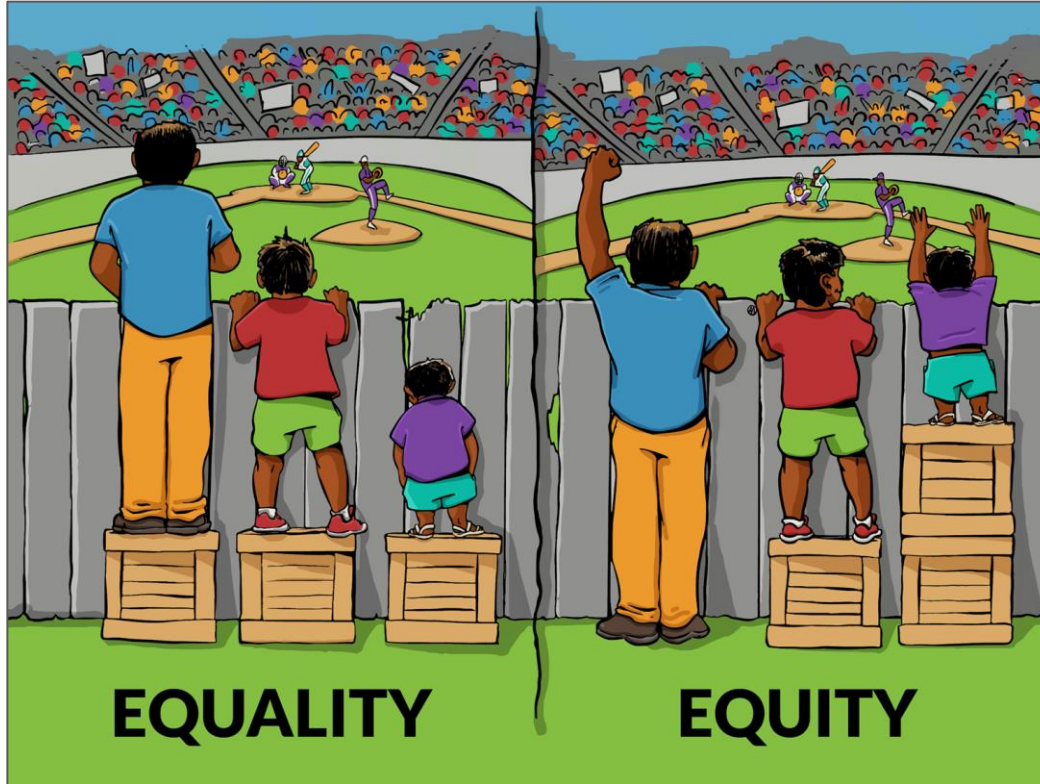
What is it?

- **\$14.2 billion** FCC benefit providing:
 - **\$30/month** toward internet
 - Up to **\$100** toward a device
- Created by President Biden's [Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill](#)
 - Predecessor: Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)
- Enough program funding for up to 5 years
- **Over 13 ½ million households** are currently enrolled in the ACP!



Affordable Connectivity Program
Helping Households Connect

Equity & Inclusion in Municipalities





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Digital Equity

Digital Equity ensures **all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy**. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion is the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to, and use of, information and communication technologies (ICTs). This includes 5 elements: **1) affordable, robust broadband Internet service; 2) Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user; 3) access to digital literacy training; 4) quality technical support; and 5) applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration**. Digital Inclusion must evolve as technology advances and recognizes that access to, and use of, ICTs are an essential element for participation in our society, democracy, and economy.

More on these definitions in theNDIA/Benton blog post:

[What Do We Mean When We Say 'Digital Equity' and 'Digital Inclusion'?](#)



COLORADO

Broadband Office

Governor's Office of Information Technology

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ISPs Must Submit Broadband Data by September 1 In Order to Receive BEAD Funding

Friday, August 12, 2022

As part of the Internet for All initiative, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is responsible for awarding the \$48 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which will grant each state \$100 million and allocate the remaining money based on number of unserved households. NTIA will rely on the data being collected as part of the FCC's Broadband Data Collection (BDC) to identify these unserved locations. The FCC's new Broadband Map will be used to help states fund projects that achieve universal high-speed internet access. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who fail to submit their Broadband Data Collection and FCC Form 477 data by September 1, 2022 will be ineligible for BEAD Program subgrants in the states in which they operate. Learn more in this [Internet For All Fact Sheet](#).

Additionally, BEAD funding in Colorado will be disbursed through the Advance Colorado Broadband Program. In order to participate in the Advance Colorado Broadband Program, you must submit data to the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO).

This means that ISPs who wish to receive BEAD funding in Colorado **must submit data in three separate data collections**:

1. [FCC Broadband Data Collection](#)
2. [FCC 477 Filing](#)
3. [CBO Data Collection](#)

What you need to know:

- FCC BDC Submission and FCC 477 Filing are due no later than September 1, 2022

Recent

[Upcoming Engagement Opportunities with CBO](#)

The Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) would like to announce new opportunities to engage with us on the development of our broadband expansion plan and deployment of funds through our Advance Colorado B

[Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera Joins FCC Commissioner and Colorado Attorney General for Discussion on Saving Coloradans Money on Broadband](#)



Equity & Inclusion in Municipalities

Jasmine Thomas, Senior Director, Airband US, Microsoft

Senior Director, Airband US, Tech & Corporate Responsibility -- Airband Initiative | Microsoft CSR

jasthomas@microsoft.com

Useful links:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/corporate-responsibility/airband-initiative>

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/on-the-issues/2022/07/14/digital-inequity-dashboard-broadband-access/>

<https://query.prod.cms.rt.microsoft.com/cms/api/am/binary/RWUOO9>

STATES' View:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiM2JmM2QxZjEtYWVzZi00MDI5LThlZDMtODMzMjhkZTY2Y2Q2IiwidCI6ImMxMzZlZWVwLWZlOTItNDVIMC1iZWVILTQ2OTg0OTczZTlzMlslmMiOjF9>



Digital Equity at Microsoft

**NATOA Annual Conference
Denver, CO
August 31, 2022**

Jasmine Thomas, Senior Director
Airband Initiative



TCR Mission Statement

Technology and Corporate Responsibility (TCR) group helps realize the company's mission to empower every person and organization on the planet to achieve more through programs that build and advance an equitable and inclusive future where people's fundamental rights are supported.





Airband Initiative mission

The Microsoft Airband Initiative advances digital equity - access to affordable internet, affordable devices, and digital skills - as a platform for empowerment and digital transformation across the world.

3 Million

People projected to be covered in rural **U.S.** by July 2022

40 Million

People projected to be covered **globally** by July 2022

8 US Cities

Projects driving adoption of affordable broadband, devices, and digital skills training

Microsoft's perspective on digital equity

[Microsoft's State Digital Equity Playbook](#) provides an actionable framework for thoughtful implementation by states and localities to achieve digital equity for all.



BROADBAND ACCESS

- Ensure that broadband funding mechanisms are **targeted** and prioritized to reach unserved or underserved communities.
- Encourage a **hybrid approach** that provides the maximum value through **cost-effective** fund allocation to a mix of technologies and deployments. There is no one-size-fits-all solution.
- Prioritize broadband solutions that will provide **rapid deployment** of broadband networks and services.



BROADBAND ADOPTION

Provide a long-term meaningful benefit to make **in-home broadband service affordable** for income insecure households.



COMPUTING DEVICES

Include sustainable subsidies for computing devices such as laptops that allow for **full participation** in education, healthcare, and other aspects of the digital economy.



DIGITAL SKILLS

Support digital literacy and skilling programs for newly connected communities and take a **holistic approach** to reducing digital inequities.

Gaps indicate variation within the same neighborhood

Lead with Data:

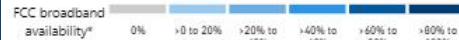
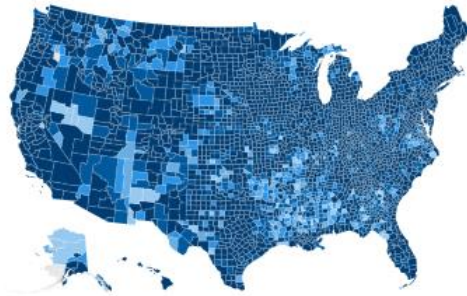
'The digital divide is everywhere – in rural and urban areas, and the problem is compounded by the pandemic – but the federal government has been relying on faulty, inaccurate maps to target broadband infrastructure dollars, leaving millions without the connectivity they need to participate in the digital economy.'

Source: [Addressing racial and digital inequity - Microsoft On the Issues](#)



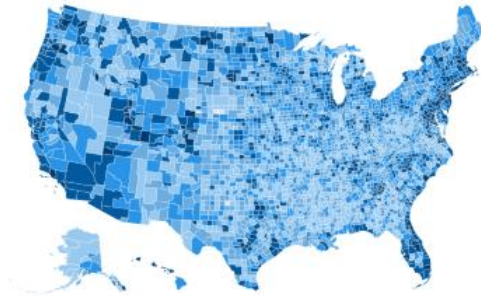
Maps showing FCC fixed broadband availability and broadband usage based on Microsoft data updated as of October 2020

FCC indicates broadband is not available to ~14.5M people



* FCC Broadband has or "could" provide greater than or equal to 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps

Microsoft data indicates ~120.4M people do not use the internet at broadband speeds



** Broadband speeds greater than or equal to 25 Mbps

Sources: FCC Fourteenth Broadband report based on form 477 data from December 2019 and Microsoft data from October 2020. To assist with additional broadband mapping analysis data has been made downloadable [here](#). Learn more in this [GitHub repository](#).

Select a View

FCC broadband availability

FCC and Microsoft

Congressional districts

Broadband subscriptions

Select a State

All

Microsoft Digital Equity Dashboard

Inputs to determine digital equity

Back

Input

25+ yrs old without graduating high school

Households without a desktop or laptop

Without an internet subscr: broadband of any type

% people (by county) not using internet at broadband speed

% of annual median income spent on broadband

Clear selections

Reset

County

All

Methodology

Each input selected above generates an index value between zero and one for each census tract relative to all census tracts in the state. For multiple inputs, zero to one values are added together equally to calculate the total index value. With five possible inputs, the maximum index value for a tract is five.

Index values change according to the inputs selected above. Census tracts with the highest index values indicate areas with the highest digital inequities.

Data sources and attributions:

- US Census Data: 2019 American Community Survey
- Internet Service Provider data furnished by [BroadbandNow](#)
- FCC Source Data: FCC Form 477
- Broadband Usage Data: Microsoft Corporation; AI for Good Lab; available on [GitHub](#)

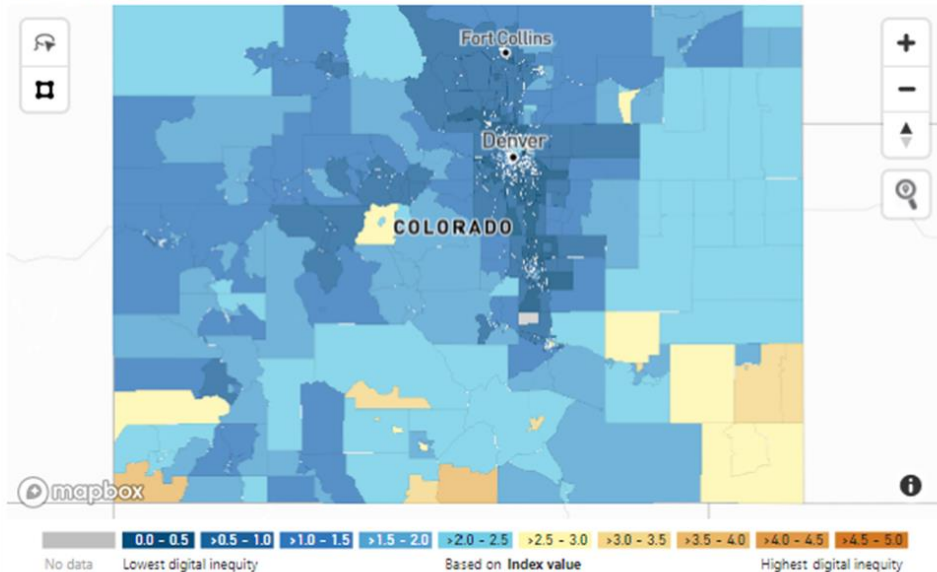
DATA PROVIDED ON AN "AS-IS" BASIS. View Disclaimers of Warranty and Limitation of Liability [Here](#)

[Download data](#)[Microsoft AI for Good Lab](#)

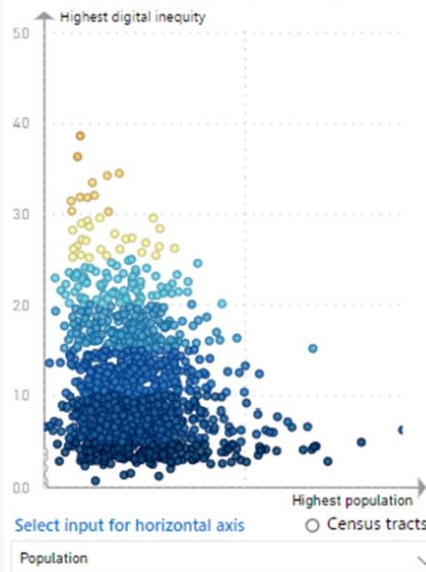
Version 1.4

This tool helps state agencies identify areas with the highest digital inequities using a data-driven approach, to maximize resources and investments in the communities most impacted by the digital divide.

Digital equity by census tract



1,249 Census Tracts by Digital Equity and Population



Details by census tract

| Census tract | Index value | County | Population | W | B / AA | AI & AN | A | NH & OPI | Other | H | 25+ yrs old without graduating high school | Households without a desktop or laptop | Without an internet subscr: broadband of any type | % people (by county) not using internet at broadband speed | % of annual median income spent on broadband |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| 8083941100 | 3.9 | Montezuma Cou... | 1,815 | 9% | 0% | 91% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 17.2% | 61.9% | 69.7% | 73.6% | 1.7% |
| 8023972700 | 3.6 | Costilla County | 1,684 | 84% | 1% | 4% | 0% | 0% | 11% | 82% | 21.3% | 51.6% | 42.6% | 67.5% | 2.4% |
| 8021974800 | 3.4 | Conejos County | 3,762 | 87% | 1% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 7% | 68% | 18.8% | 45.2% | 39.7% | 91.9% | 1.8% |
| 8055960600 | 3.4 | Huerfano County | 3,162 | 94% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 4% | 51% | 11.9% | 50.1% | 41.1% | 82.2% | 2.2% |
| 8099000200 | 3.3 | Prowers County | 2,421 | 91% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 5% | 59% | 30.8% | 45.1% | 25.9% | 76.4% | 1.8% |
| Total | | | 5,610,349 | 84% | 4% | 1% | 3% | 0% | 8% | 22% | 8.3% | 15.5% | 12.4% | 27.0% | |

Race - W: White | B / AA: Black or African American | AI & AN: American Indian and Alaska Native | A: Asian | NH & OPI: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | Other (includes two or more races)
 Ethnicity - H: Hispanic or Latino

Inputs to determine digital equity

Input 1

25+ yrs old without graduating high school

Household without a desktop or laptop

Without broadband of any type

% people (by county) not using internet at broadband speed

% of annual median income spent on broadband

Clear selections Reset

County: All

Methodology and Sources

Each input selected above generates an index value between zero and one for each census tract relative to all census tracts in the state. For multiple inputs, zero to one values are added together equally to calculate the total index value. For multiple inputs, the maximum index value for a tract is five.

List of census tracts

Select a field header to sort the list of census tracts by ascending or descending order.

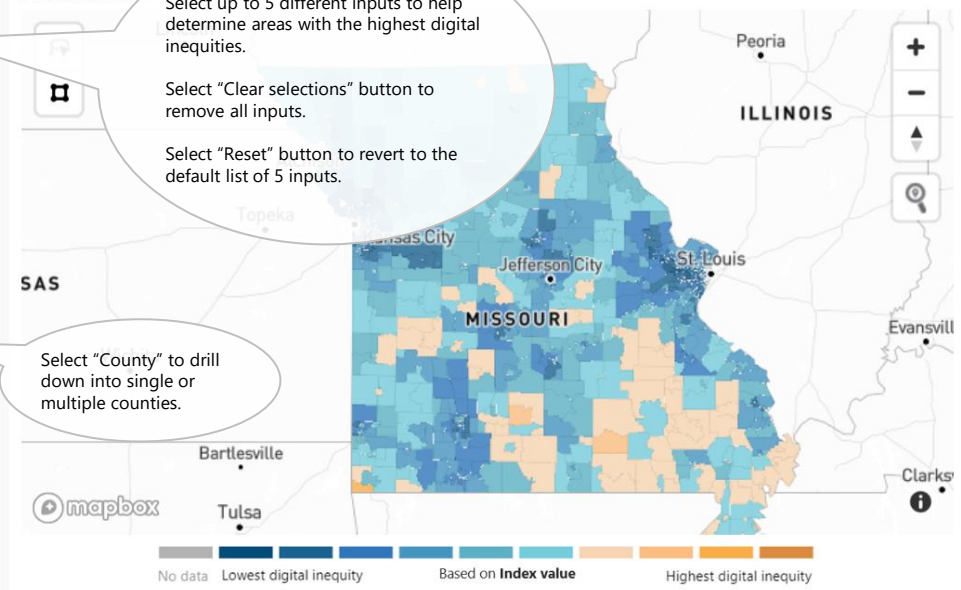
Index values are color-coded by the inputs selected above. Census tracts with the highest index values indicate areas with the highest digital inequities.

Please review the map disclaimer here, which applies to all maps and geographic data.

Sources:
 2019 American Community Survey
 FCC 14th Broadband Report
 BroadbandNow
 Microsoft

This tool helps state agencies identify areas with the highest digital inequities using a data-driven approach, to maximize resources and investments in the communities most impacted by the digital divide.

DIGITAL EQUITY BY CENSUS TRACT



Select up to 5 different inputs to help determine areas with the highest digital inequities.

Select "Clear selections" button to remove all inputs.

Select "Reset" button to revert to the default list of 5 inputs.

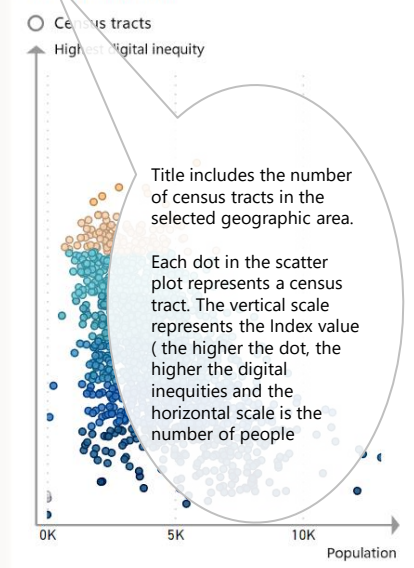
Select "County" to drill down into single or multiple counties.

DETAILS BY CENSUS TRACT

| Census Tract | Index value | County | Population | W | B / AA | AI & AN | A | NH & OPI | Other | 25+ yrs old without graduating high school | Households without a desktop or laptop | Without an internet subscr: broadband of any type | % people (by county) not using internet at broadband speed | % of annual median income spent on broadband |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|---|--|--|
| 29119070300 | 4.0 | McDonald County | 5,863 | 78% | 5% | 3% | 1% | 5% | 7% | 29.8% | 56.6% | 56.6% | 90.9% | 1.3% |
| 29155470400 | 3.7 | Pemiscot County | 2,819 | 59% | 41% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 30.9% | 55.4% | 39.9% | 91.5% | 0.8% |
| 29133950400 | 3.7 | Mississippi County | 3,870 | 95% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 33.9% | 54.0% | 36.9% | 84.9% | 1.8% |
| 29229490200 | 3.7 | Wright County | 3,944 | 95% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 32.1% | 50.5% | 40.8% | 90.2% | 0.6% |
| 29510110200 | 3.6 | St. Louis city | 2,163 | 0% | 99% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 27.4% | 67.7% | 69.5% | 49.1% | 0.6% |
| Total | | | 6,104,910 | 82% | 11% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 4% | 10.1% | 25.1% | 19.8% | 48.6% | |

Race: W: White | B / AA: Black or African American | AI & AN: American Indian and Alaska Native | A: Asian | NH & OPI: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | Other (includes two or more races)

1,393 CENSUS TRACTS BY DIGITAL EQUITY AND POPULATION



Each dot in the scatter plot represents a census tract. The vertical scale represents the Index value (the higher the dot, the higher the digital inequities) and the horizontal scale is the number of people.

Best Practices

We must act with urgency to close the digital divide, working with stakeholders at all levels and across sectors.

- **Prioritize public-private partnerships:** Federal, state, and local agencies; corporations, philanthropy, and nonprofit partners; and trusted community leaders are critical and must be actively engaged and supportive to best serve as champions.
- **Data:** Planning, decision-making, and deployments must be informed by current dynamic data, including maps and datapoints of gaps in affordable in-home access, coverage, broadband adoption, etc.
- **Focus on comprehensive projects:** Support efforts that include 'anchor' partners like universities and hospitals, taking a holistic approach to enable adoption (connectivity + computing devices + digital skills training).
- **Encourage cost-effective and hybrid technology approaches:** Funding should be allocated to technologies and deployments that deliver maximum value through efficient use of funds.



Resources

- **Microsoft Digital Equity Dashboard** (launched July 2022)
<https://aka.ms/digitalequitymaps>
- **Microsoft Digital Equity Playbook for States**
<https://aka.ms/DEplaybook>
- **State Digital Equity Scorecard**
[Digital Equity Scorecard \(digitalinclusion.org\)](https://digitalinclusion.org)



Thank you!