Digital Opportunity Department

SC Digital Workforce Initiative Grant Application

Overview

The Digital Equity Act, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) offers three funding streams (https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/digital-equity-act-programs): planning grant (completed and closed), capacity grant, and competitive grant. The funding opportunity is made available from the allocation to South Carolina through the 11.032 State Digital Equity Planning and Capacity Grant (Award Number 41-31-DS062). The Digital Opportunity Department (DOD) at the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) is the designated agency to receive and implement the capacity grant. The grant is intended to implement the goals identified in South Carolina's Digital Opportunity Plan, which was created during the planning grant period. The SC Digital Opportunity Plan is available **here**.

Grant funds are available to support large scale projects that will address digital literacy, cybersecurity and cyberscam prevention, technology device access and use for purposes related to educational opportunity and employment and telehealth access, and digital workforce development.

All obligations of ORS and DOD, including, without limitation, the disbursement of funds, are contingent upon the actual receipt of funds by the ORS and DOD from the federal government under the capacity grant allocated to South Carolina, and in no event shall ORS and DOD be liable for any payments or disbursements in excess of such funds actually received.

In the event funds from the federal government become unavailable for any reason, DOD and ORS shall have the right to authorize the withholding of payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to terminate this Agreement immediately upon giving the Subrecipient written notice of such termination.

Please read the Notice of Funding Opportunity prior to completing the application.

Funding Opportunities

The DOD designed the Digital Workforce Initiative to implement the Digital Equity Act Capacity Grant administered by NTIA. There are three project categories available for funding:

- Digital Navigator: Up to $2,000,000 will be awarded to a single organization, or organizations, to implement a digital navigator type program at a statewide level and focused on utilization of telehealth.
- Device Recycling: Up to $2,050,000 will be awarded to a single organization, or organizations, to implement a device recycling workforce training type program that distributes the refurbished devices statewide at a low-cost, increasing access to technology.
- Digital Education Learning and Literacy: Up to $4,360,000 will be awarded to a single organization, or organizations, to implement a statewide certification and apprenticeship programs, or other similar programs, to prepare a digital workforce ready to support the development of broadband related infrastructure and adoption.

Eligibility

- Work must be implemented across all 46 SC counties
- Applicants must be Day 1 ready with capacity to implement project deliverables related to the Digital Opportunity Plan
- Applicants must use established compliance practices for legal requirements and best practices related to cybersecurity
- Applicants must have the ability to work with smaller, local entities through established partnerships
- Applicants must demonstrate experience managing large federal contracts or grants and the associated compliance
- Applicants must be in good standing with the IRS, Department of Revenue, SC Secretary of State, or any other administering entity
- Applicants must have a UEIN with SAM.gov and a W9 filed with the DOD prior to the start of work and any issuance of funds. Registration must be maintained throughout the project period.
- Applicants with existing programs with demonstrated success at a statewide level are preferred.

Organizations in good standing with the IRS, Secretary of State, or any other administering entity who do not meet the capacity related requirements for eligibility may submit the Interested Parties Form.

Timeline

April 22, 2025: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released to the public

May 1, 2025: Grant Application and Interested Parties Form opens for submissions

May 16, 2025 at 11:59pm: Grant Application and Interested Parties Form closes

June 6, 2025: Conditional Notice of Award issued

June 13, 2025: Signed Grant Agreements due to ORS DOD Staff

November 30, 2025: Projected final date to receive NTIA approval of projects

January 1, 2026: Anticipated awarded project start work date

December 31, 2028: Expected project completion date

March 31, 2029: Final financial and programmatic reports due to ORS DOD Staff

*Dates may change based on guidance from NTIA, NIST, or other administering entities.

Application

Which program are you applying for? *

☐ Digital Navigator

☐ Device Recycling

☐ Digital Education Learning and Literacy

Only select one.

Organization Name: *

Organization EIN *

Organization Website

Is the organization's registration with the SC Secretary of State current? *

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Status will be verified with the Secretary of State before any awards are made.

Is the organization in good standing with the SC DOR and IRS as appropriate? *

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Status will be verified before any awards are made.

Organization Mailing Address *

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City   State   Zip Code

Organization Point of Contact *

First   Last

Email *

Phone *

How long has this organization been in existence? *

What is the mission/vision of the organization? *

What counties in SC does this organization serve? *

☐ All 46 SC Counties ☐ Abbeville ☐ Aiken ☐ Allendale ☐ Anderson ☐ Bamberg

☐ Barnwell ☐ Beaufort ☐ Berkeley ☐ Calhoun ☐ Charleston ☐ Cherokee ☐ Chester

☐ Chesterfield ☐ Clarendon ☐ Colleton ☐ Darlington ☐ Dillon ☐ Dorchester

☐ Edgefield ☐ Fairfield ☐ Florence ☐ Georgetown ☐ Greenville ☐ Greenwood

☐ Hampton ☐ Horry ☐ Jasper ☐ Kershaw ☐ Lancaster ☐ Laurens ☐ Lee

☐ Lexington ☐ Marion ☐ Marlboro ☐ McCormick ☐ Newberry ☐ Oconee

☐ Orangeburg ☐ Pickens ☐ Richland ☐ Saluda ☐ Spartanburg ☐ Sumter ☐ Union

☐ Williamsburg ☐ York

Select all that apply

Which of the covered populations does this organization serve? *

☐ Individuals living at or below 150% of the poverty level ☐ Individuals over the age of 60

☐ Incarcerated or previously individuals ☐ Veterans ☐ Individuals with disabilities

☐ Individuals with a language barrier or low literacy

☐ Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group

☐ Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area

Select all that apply

What is the organization's current scope of work and projects offered? *

Please outline the scope of work for the proposed project. *

What similar or aligned work is the organization currently engaged in completing, and when did that work begin? *

What counties will this project serve? *

☐ All 46 SC Counties ☐ Abbeville ☐ Aiken ☐ Allendale ☐ Anderson ☐ Bamberg

☐ Barnwell ☐ Beaufort ☐ Berkeley ☐ Calhoun ☐ Charleston ☐ Cherokee ☐ Chester

☐ Chesterfield ☐ Clarendon ☐ Colleton ☐ Darlington ☐ Dillon ☐ Dorchester

☐ Edgefield ☐ Fairfield ☐ Florence ☐ Georgetown ☐ Greenville ☐ Greenwood

☐ Hampton ☐ Horry ☐ Jasper ☐ Kershaw ☐ Lancaster ☐ Laurens ☐ Lee

☐ Lexington ☐ Marion ☐ Marlboro ☐ McCormick ☐ Newberry ☐ Oconee

☐ Orangeburg ☐ Pickens ☐ Richland ☐ Saluda ☐ Spartanburg ☐ Sumter ☐ Union

☐ Williamsburg ☐ York

Select all that apply

Which of the covered populations will this project serve? *

☐ Individuals living at or below 150% of the poverty level ☐ Individuals over the age of 60

☐ Incarcerated or previously incarcerated individuals ☐ Veterans ☐ Individuals with disabilities

☐ Individuals with a language barrier or low literacy

☐ Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group

☐ Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area

Select all that apply

What goals of the Digital Opportunity Plan are addressed by this project? *

There will be approximately 4-6 months from conditional award to start date. How much time after the start date will the organization need to begin step 1 of the proposed work? *

Share a projected timeline to complete the proposed project within 24 months. *

How many SC residents will this program serve during the project period? This should reflect end-users engaged in programming (users receiving devices, users participating in training, etc.) *

How many SC residents will the program serve by Covered Population? *

Please include all eight covered populations: Individuals living at or below 150% of the poverty level; individuals over the age of 60; incarcerated or previously incarcerated individuals; veterans; individuals with disabilities; individuals with a language barrier or low literacy; individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; individuals who primarily reside in in a rural area.

Share proposed goals and objectives for the proposed project and include indicators of success for each objective. Indicators of success should include number of people/organizations served/ engaged, behaviors that will change as a result of programming, and align with fulfilling the goals of the DO Plan. *

How will local partners (other nonprofits, coalitions, businesses, or other formal entities) be engaged in the project? What role will local partners play in project implementation and success? *

How many local partners are expected to participate in the project? *

What will be accomplished if your project is successful? *

Total funding amount requested *

Is your organization receiving any other federal funding for this project?

◯ Yes ⦿ No

Is your organization receiving any other state, municipal, or private funding for this project?

◯ Yes ⦿ No

Total Project Budget *

Please download the financial budget template, complete it, and upload the completed version.

Required Attachments

Financial Budget Form *

Upload or drag files here.

IRS Letter of Determination, if applicable

Upload or drag files here.

Completed W-9

Upload or drag files here.

List of members of the board of directors or governing council indicating officers

Upload or drag files here.

SCEIS Vendor Number

Required at time of award

UEID via sam.gov

Required at time of award. If you do not have, please insert your status in applying for a UEID.

Any questions can be submitted via email to **digitalopportunity@ors.sc.gov**.

Submit