

Interagency Digital Equity Funding FAQs

1. Who is eligible to apply for the Interagency Digital Equity Funding?

Applicants must be an entity of North Carolina state government, which includes:

- All state government organizations as outlined on this web page: [State Organizations A-Z | nc.gov](https://www.nc.gov/state-organizations)
- University of North Carolina System or individual schools, universities, or centers within
- North Carolina Community College system or individual schools, colleges or centers within the system

2. How much can each applicant apply for?

Applicants can apply for up to \$2 million and are encouraged to request only the specific amount needed to fund their effort and proposed needs. The Office of Digital Equity and Literacy will fund selected entities based on their requests up to the provided limit and reserves the right to fund a portion of an application.

3. How long is the funding term?

This funding term is for two years. The start date will be outlined in the signed contract between funding recipients and NCDIT, but the funding term will likely run from Jan. 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2024.

4. Can these funds be used for salary?

Yes, this funding can be used to cover a portion of salary for current employees as long as they will be working on this project. This funding can also be used to hire staff for the project.

5. Does this funding allow for overhead costs?

Yes, up to 10 percent.

6. What kinds of projects are eligible for funding?

All projects must serve a statewide or regional audience (more than one county). Eligible projects will support the development or expansion of digital equity programming and address at least one of the following elements of digital inclusion:

- a. Affordable, robust high-speed internet;
- b. Internet enabled devices (computers, laptops, etc.) that meet users' needs;
- c. Access to digital literacy and skills training;
- d. Quality technical support; and
- e. Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

Project examples are listed in the Interagency Digital Equity Funding Guidelines. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project, please reach out to our team to discuss specifics.

7. Will certain populations be prioritized?

Yes, all projects must serve one or more of the following populations:

- Low-income households (150 percent of the Federal Poverty Level or below)
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area
- Aging residents
- Incarcerated and second chance residents/Reentry/Justice Involved
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who
 - Are English learners; and
 - Have low levels of literacy
- Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group

8. What are reporting expectations?

Reporting will be required, likely on a quarterly basis. Specific reporting requirements will be outlined in the contract between funding recipients and NCDIT. This program is funded through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, in the “revenue replacement” category of funds. The Office of Digital Equity and Literacy will be available at any time throughout the funding term for technical assistance and to discuss the status of a project.

9. How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the Interagency Digital Equity Funding Guidelines. Please pay close attention to the “Application Requirements” section and answer all necessary questions in the project narrative. The application review committee is looking to fund a diverse set of programs that serve all parts of the state and meet the needs of the priority populations.

10. Can we partner with other agencies?

Yes, partnerships are encouraged but not required. If we receive applications from agencies that have significant similarities, the Office of Digital Equity and Literacy may encourage partnership between those agencies as a requirement for funding.

11. Can an applicant apply for a grant AND be listed as a subgrantee on another grant application?

Yes, as long as the two projects are distinct and do not have overlap.