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## STATE OF NEVADA

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### OSIT ANNOUNCES \$750,000 DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING GRANT; START OF DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING PROCESS

CARSON CITY, NV (December 20, 2022) – The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) today announced the receipt of a \$754,458 Digital Equity Planning Grant from the US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the kickoff of the State's Digital Equity planning process.

"The digital equity planning process is an essential part of the High Speed Nevada Initiative and the State's goal that every Nevadan has access to affordable, reliable and scalable Internet service," said **Brian Mitchell, Director of the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology**. "I would like to thank the Biden-Harris Administration for approving the State's application and Nevada's Congressional Delegation for their support of our efforts."

Digital equity is a term that refers to whether Nevadans can afford access to a fast, reliable home Internet service, have a connected device, and have the digital literacy needed to use the Internet to learn, earn and live well. Over the next six to nine months, OSIT will use the planning dollars to create a statewide digital equity plan. Once the plan is approved by the NTIA, the State will unlock additional funding to implement the plan.

"Community engagement is very important to us. We want to listen and understand the barriers communities have to accessing the Internet. We also want to understand challenges people face in their lives that might be ameliorated by better access to the Internet, such as access to healthcare through telemedicine. We plan to visit all corners of the State as a part of our planning process," said **Director Mitchell**.

As a part of the statewide planning process, OSIT will work with communities across the state to assess digital equity needs and barriers and create an inventory of digital equity assets and partners, including existing resources and strategies that promote digital equity. OSIT will then develop an implementation strategy to be carried out in partnership with key stakeholders once additional funding is received. To kick off the planning process, OSIT has mapped a digital divide index that geographically measures the level of digital distress across the state. Based on a preliminary review of the data, the following are among the communities that are more likely to be digitally distressed that OSIT will seek to understand during its planning process: low-income households, aging populations, Tribal nations, veterans, rural residents, residents of multi-dwelling or multi-family housing, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with language barriers, and individuals with disabilities.

To get involved in the planning process, please visit <https://forms.office.com/g/hieSkGGizQ> or email [highspeedNV@gov.nv.gov](mailto:highspeedNV@gov.nv.gov). More information about Digital Equity can be found on the OSIT website: [https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Digital\\_Equity/](https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Digital_Equity/).

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