

## OSIT Announces \$9.2 Million Digital Equity Capacity Grant; Funding Will Help Nevada to Bridge the Digital Divide

**CARSON CITY, NV – June 26, 2024** The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) today announced the receipt of a \$ 9,200,546 Digital Equity Capacity Grant from the US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). This grant, authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, will provide critical funding to empower Nevada residents with the tools and skills needed to access and utilize the benefits of the Internet. OSIT is the first state in the nation to receive its digital equity funding.

“The Digital Equity Capacity Grant will further advance the High Speed Nevada Initiative and the State’s goal that all Nevadans have a connected device and the digital skills and support needed to safely and securely work, learn and thrive,” **said Brian Mitchell, Director of OSIT.** “This funding will provide the funding needed to implement our Statewide Digital Equity Plan and progress toward ensuring all residents have the opportunity to participate fully in our increasingly digital world.”

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. With community input, OSIT developed a comprehensive Digital Equity Plan to address these issues within our state. This plan identified key barriers to internet access and use, such as affordability, infrastructure limitations, and lack of digital literacy skills.

The Digital Equity Capacity Grant will empower OSIT to award subgrants to focus on key areas outlined in the Digital Equity Plan. These focus areas include:

- **Increasing Device Access:** Subgrantees will implement programs to bridge the digital device divide by providing laptops, tablets, or other appropriate devices to low-income and other residents in need.
- **Promoting Digital Skills Training:** Subgrantees will offer training programs throughout the state to equip residents with the necessary skills to effectively utilize the Internet for education, employment, and civic engagement.
- **Making Tech Support More Broadly Available:** Subgrantees will establish a network of local tech support providers, ensuring residents across the state have access to assistance with devices, troubleshooting, and basic internet skills.

OSIT will host an informational webinar in the coming weeks to discuss the Digital Equity Capacity Grant prequalification and subaward process. Details for the webinar will be announced soon.

More information about Digital Equity and a copy of the Statewide Digital Equity Plan can be found on the OSIT website: [https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Digital\\_Equity/](https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Digital_Equity/).