



June 18, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Adam Cassady
Acting Administrator
National Telecommunications
and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Acting Administrator Cassady,

On behalf of the 156 individuals leading 140 organizations serving communities from 39 states, we, the undersigned, urge you to reinstate the Digital Equity Act (DEA) Programs that were cancelled on May 9, 2025. We are the organizations that would have carried out the work funded by the Digital Equity Act Program, created and authorized by Congress in the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021](#). Our organizations were recommended for a Competitive Grant Award, were planned sub-grantees of Competitive Grant Awardees, would have been sub-recipients of State Capacity Grant Programs, or support local digital inclusion programs and organizations like Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) that carry out the vital digital inclusion work.

In the 21st century, access to technology is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. However, according to the US Census' American Community Survey, [31 million American households](#) still face significant barriers to accessing affordable high-speed internet, affordable devices, and the digital skills necessary to participate in the digital economy.

We, the undersigned organizations, have a proven track record of helping members of our communities overcome the obstacles that keep them offline. If the funding is reinstated, our shovel-ready projects will help disconnected people in rural, suburban, urban, and Tribal communities in all 56 US States and Territories access telehealth

services, strengthen small businesses, increase government efficiency, learn new AI skills, and advance our communities' economic competitiveness.

Without these critical funds, American residents and businesses are left behind in crucial areas:

1. **Economic Opportunity:** Fewer small businesses and entrepreneurs will be able to compete with international businesses because they won't be able to reach customers or leverage e-commerce platforms. Fewer workers will create resumes, apply for jobs, take online classes to learn coding or new and emerging technologies, and therefore contribute to the U.S. economy.
2. **Education:** More students will have to do school work in parking lots, fall behind their peers, and have fewer opportunities to learn AI and other emerging technologies.
3. **Healthcare:** [Nearly 4.5 million Americans](#) living in rural communities won't be able to get the virtual healthcare they need from their doctors.
4. **Online Safety:** [According to the FTC](#), in 2024, US consumers lost \$12.5 billion to fraud. Without much-needed cybersecurity training and AI literacy, many seniors, veterans, and rural families are more vulnerable to internet-based scams and fraud.

We request that you reverse the cancellation and reinstate the full \$2.75 billion allocated in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for all states and territories via the Capacity Grant Program and the individual projects supported by the Competitive Grant Program. Reinstating these funds is a common-sense, fiscally smart, pro-growth decision that ensures our workforce and businesses remain competitive. The funds are vital to driving positive change and creating a future where everyone has access to the opportunities the digital world offers. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Amy Huffman, policy director, at amy@digitalinclusion.org.

Sincerely,

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Angela Siefer	Executive Director	National Digital Inclusion Alliance	Columbus	OH
Vaughn Villaverde, MPH	Director of Advocacy	AACI	San Jose	CA
Christine Diggs	Chief Technology Officer	Albemarle County Public Schools	Charlottesville	VA
Danny Rojas	Executive Director	All Star Code	New York	NY
Joy Thompson	Executive Director	Alliance for Navajo Broadband	Navajo Nation	AZ, NM, UT
Lisa Varga	Associate Executive Director	American Library Association	Chicago	IL
Wanda Davis	Executive Director	ASC3 (Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center)	Cleveland	OH
Shaletha Mitchell	Board President	Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center	Cleveland	OH
Kathryn Carroll	Disability and Program Coordinator	Association on Aging in New York	Albany	NY
Jared Bodine	Executive Director	AZ StRUT	Tempe	AZ
Lo Smith	Executive Director	Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition	Baltimore	MD
Alison Aldridge	Director of Development	Bay Area Council	San Francisco	CA
Dick Mulvihill	Executive Director	Beaver Island Association	Beaver Island	MI
Noel Hidalgo	Executive Director	BetaNYC, a partner project of the Fund for the City of New York	New York City	NY
Kimmell Proctor	CEO	Beyond Literacy	Philadelphia	PA
Allie Rehm Kashaka	Director	Bridge The Digital Divide	Los Angeles	CA
Anthony Chun	Head of Digital Access	Bridging Tech Charitable Fund	San Mateo	CA
Melina O'Grady	Director of Leadership Transition	Cambridge Public Access Corporation	Cambridge	MA

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Jenny Marr	Executive Director	Capital Area District Libraries	Lansing	MI
Don Taylor	CEO	Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County	San Jose	CA
Laurie Millman	Executive Director	Center for New Americans	Northampton	MA
Donald Michael	Digital Inclusion Specialist	Central Piedmont Community College	Charlotte	NC
Eric Roe	County Commissioner	Chester County	West Chester	PA
Marian Moskowitz	Chester County Commissioner	Chester County	West Chester	PA
Jim Mercante	Co-Founder	Chester County Digital Alliance	Kennett Square	PA
Joan Holliday	Co-Chair	Chester County Digital Alliance	Kennett Square	PA
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor	City of Easthampton	Easthampton	MA
John Macon	Recreation Supervisor	City of Milpitas	Milpitas	CA
Keith Wilson	Mayor	City of Portland	Portland	OR
Sarah Zarate	Director, City Manager's Office of Administration, Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations	City of San Jose	San Jose	CA
Kathleen Cumiskey	Professor & Director, CUNY PIT Lab	City University of New York	New York	NY
Christopher Soukup	Chief Executive Officer	Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc.	Austin	TX
Curtis Dean	Executive Director	Community Broadband Action Network	Indianola	IA
Jon Willow	Chair, Board of Directors	Community Broadband Action Network	Indianola	IA
Natalie Washburn	President	Community Concepts Finance Corporation	Paris	ME

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Mia Purcell	Vice President of Economic and Impact	Community Concepts Finance Corporation	Lewiston	ME
Marie Jobling	Co-Executive Director	Community Living Campaign	San Francisco	CA
Bryan Harley	Executive Director	Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC)	Fresno	CA
Heather Siavelis	CFO	Community Service Programs of West Alabama Inc.	Tuscaloosa	AL
Monique Tate	Co-Director	Community Tech New York (CTNY)	New York City	NY
Dave Sevick	Executive Director	Computer Reach	Pittsburgh	PA
Dylan Zajac	Founder & Executive Director	Computers For People Inc.	Hoboken	NJ
Jordana Barton-Garcia	Program Director, RGV	Connect Humanity	San Antonio	TX
Josh Maxwell	Chair, County Commissioners	County of Chester	West Chester	PA
Mark Revis	Broadband Project Manager	County of Napa	Napa	CA
Candice W. McGarry	County Administrator/Clerk, Board of Supervisors	County of Nelson	Lovingston	VA
Chad Johnston	CEO	CreaTV San José	San José	CA
Mikhail Sundust	Executive Director	Digital Connect	Gila River Indian Community	
Laura B. Fogle	Board Chair and Founder	Digital Durham	Durham	NC
Katherine VanHenley	Program Manager	Digital Equity Learning Network	Seattle	WA
Andrew Coy	President & CEO	Digital Harbor Foundation	Baltimore	MD
Kami Griffiths	Founding Executive Director	digitalLIFT	San Francisco	CA

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Scot Henley	Executive Director	Digitunity	North Conway	NH
Pat Millen	President	E2D, Inc.	Davidson	NC
Sarah Kline Morgan	Library Director	East Hartford Public Library	East Hartford	CT
Landon Hill	Chief Program Officer	East Oakland Youth Development Center	Oakland	CA
Jeffrey Mastroianni	Executive Director	Easthampton Media Inc	Easthampton	MA
Gina Gomez	Executive Director	El Centro Hispano Arkansas	Jonesboro	AR
Quincy Bloxom, DSW, SIFI	President	Erase The Divide LLC	Burlington	NJ
John Chrastka	Executive Director	Everylibrary Institute	Berwyn	IL
Norma E. Fernandez	CEO	Everyone On	Washington	DC
Nora Reissig	Vice President of Development & Programs	Exodus Transitional Community	New York City	NY
Michelle de la Uz	Executive Director	Fifth Avenue Committee	Brooklyn	NY
Steve Good	President and CEO	Five Keys Schools and Programs	Oakland	CA
J. Michelle Shiplet	Executive Director	Five Point Center	Robbinsville	NC
Audren Morris-Sandoval	Founder/Executive Director	FLORECER	Yuma	AZ
Juan M. Muro	Executive Director	Free Geek	Portland	OR
Kevin M Brown	Resource Manager	G.R.E.A.T	Robbinsville	NC
Cheryl DeBerry	Citizen	Garrett County, Maryland	Oakland	MD
Laura Walling	Vice President of Government Affairs	Goodwill Industries International	Rockville	MD
Tershea Rice	VP of Operations	Greater Baltimore Urban League	Baltimore	MD
Don Eversley	Executive Director	Greater Hunts Point Economic Development Corp.	Bronx, New York City	NY

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Belinda Ray	Director of Strategic Partnerships	Greater Portland Council of Governments	Portland	ME
Josh Stoltz	Executive Director	Grow Benzie	Benzonia	MI
Nancy E. Smith	CEO	GrowSmart Maine	Augusta	ME
Samia Zuber	Executive Director	Hack the Hood	Oakland	CA
Doris Amelia Thomas	Executive Producer	HBCU International Innovation Media	Atlanta	GA
Latorshia Spencer	CEO	Healing By Kay	Peachland	NC
Brandon Munda	Federal Policy Analyst	Hispanic Federation	New York	NY
Ron Gonzales	President & CEO	Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley	San Jose	CA
Diego Augusto Rodriguez Zamora	Caretaker - Volunteer Coordinator	Homies Empowerment	Oakland (East Oakland)	CA
Jazmin Preciado	Leadership Team	Homies Empowerment	Oakland	CA
Joshua Butler	Senior Policy & Advocacy Manager	Human-I-T	Los Angeles/Detroit	CA/MI
W Lazone Grays	President/CEO	IBSA, Inc.	Topeka	KS
DeAnne Cuellar	Associate Director for Outreach	Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR)	Minneapolis	MN
Grace Stanley	Grants Manager	International Rescue Committee	New York	NY
Daniel Berlin	Policy Director	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	New York	NY
Sulagna Ghosh	Founder	Joint Family	Cambridge	MA
Cyndy Yu-Robinson	Executive Director	Kramden Institute	Durham	NC
Sara Nichols	Energy and Economic Development Program Manager	Land of Sky Regional Council	Asheville	NC
Maria Matos	President & CEO	Latin American Community Center	Wilmington	DE
Taylor Stuckert	Interim CEO	Lead for America	Wichita	KS
Debbie Dininno	Chief Program Officer	LET'S GO Boys and Girls, dba LET'S GO	Baltimore	MD

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Steven Corbató	Executive Director	Link Oregon	Portland	OR
Dr. Kimberly Leslie Patton	TA Coordinator	LPA/ for The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Shirley Wright	Executive Director	Maine Adult Education Association	Dover Foxcroft	ME
Connie Baker	Chief Operations Officer	Meals on Wheels of Southwest OH and Northern KY	Cincinnati	OH
Brandon Forester	Lead Organizer	MediaJustice	Oakland	CA
Stephen Smith	Executive Director	Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc.	Mohawk	NY
Tahra M. Goraya, MA, MPA	President & CEO	Monterey Bay Economic Partnership	Marina	CA
Robert E. Branson	President and CEO	Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council	Washington	DC
Franklin Shook	Director	Nantahala Regional Library	Murphy	NC
Susan Corbett	Executive Director	National Digital Equity Center	Wiscasset	ME
Jenna Wilson	FOC Manager	Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission	Bryan	OH
Jamie Huber	Director of Community Services	Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission	Defiance	OH
Demetrius Goodwin	Executive Director	NPower	Brooklyn	NY
Amy Sample Ward	CEO	NTEN	Portland	OR
Alexandria Medina	Chief Executive Officer	Oakland Public Education Fund	Oakland	CA
Jamie Turbak	Library Director	Oakland Public Library	Oakland	CA
Will Holman	CEO	Open Works, Inc.	Baltimore	MD
Nili Yosha	Executive Director	Outside the Frame	Portland	OR

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Kathy Schwarting	CEO	Palmetto Care Connections	Bamberg	SC
Camisha Beverly	Managing Director	Per Scholas	Bronx	NY
Alex Wermer-Colan	Executive Director	Philly Community Wireless	Philadelphia	PA
Tasha Henneman	Chief of Policy & Government Affairs	PRC	San Francisco	CA
Amy R. Sheon, PhD, MPH	President & Digital Health Engagement & Innovation Consultant	Public Health Innovators, LLC	Cleveland	OH
Rita Mancera	Executive Director	Puente de la Costa Sur	Pescadero	CA
Maria Armstrong	Co-founder	Raising Expectations Inc.	Atlanta	GA
Jesse R. Bradley IV	Program Director/Founder/Digital Navigator	Right Here, Right Now Project	Pittsboro	NC
Dawn Coppin	CEO	San Jose Public Library Foundation	San Jose	CA
Anne-Marie Despain	Director of Library Services	San Mateo County Libraries	San Mateo County	CA
Michael Matos	Education Technology Director	scaleLIT	Chicago	IL
Renuka Sharma	Senior Manager	scaleLIT	Chicago	IL
Karla Suomala	Co-director	SF Tech Council	San Francisco	CA
Elizabeth Paine	Digital Navigator	Shower to the People	Alamosa	CO
Eric Howard	Executive Director	Sno-Isle Libraries	Marysville	WA
Aneliza Del Pinal	Chief Executive Officer	Sourcewise	Santa Clara	CA
Dr. Aaron D McCall	Managing Director	South Central Alabama Broadband Cooperative District	Hayneville	AL
Tessa Killian	Executive Director	Southeastern NY Library Resources Council	Highland	NY
K. John Egelhaaf	Executive Director	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission	Benton Harbor	MI

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Jamal Abdi	Jamal Abdi	Southwest Somali Community	Portland	OR
Rachelle Chong	Principal	Strategic Consulting of Rachelle Chong	San Francisco	CA
Ulises Zatarain	Executive Director	Tech Exchange	Oakland	CA
Kate Rivera	Executive Director	Technology Learning Collaborative	Philadelphia	PA
Dr. Kerri Pruitt	Executive Director	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Alvin J. Garrett	Executive Vice President	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Nichole Battle	Fiscal Operations Manager	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Kris Leslie	IT Director	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Dr. Kimberly Patton	T/TAS Director, Community Programs	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Danielle Hudson	Board Vice President	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Dr. Wayne Green	Digital Capacity Director	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Dr. Patricia Wilson	HR Director	The Dannon Project	Birmingham	AL
Dwight Pugh	Mayor, CAI location	The Dannon Project	Coffeeville	AL
Anya Dickson-Arguello	Digital Equity Program Manager / Coalition Facilitator	The Denver Digital Equity Coalition	Denver	CO
Margaret Käufer	President & Chief Visionary Officer	The STEM Alliance	Mamaroneck	NY
Rafael Velazquez	Vice President of Community Programs	The Unity Council	Oakland	CA
John Schapman	Executive Director	Thriving Together NCW	Wenatchee	WA
Dwight Pugh	Mayor	Town of Coffeeville Alabama	Coffeeville	AL
Moira Weir	President & CEO	United Way of Greater Cincinnati	Cincinnati	OH
Dr. Emma Viera	Executive Director	Unlimited Potential	Phoenix	AZ

Name	Title	Organization	City	State
Christine Hallquist	Executive Director	Vermont Community Broadband Board	Montpelier	VT
Bao Trieu	President & CEO	Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation (VIVO)	San Jose	CA
Susan Malone	Executive Director	Wide Angle Youth Media	Baltimore	MD
Jacob Gorges	Executive Director	Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.	Madison	WI
Jennifer Ferre	Executive Director	WNC Communities	Asheville	NC
Candelaria Mendoza	Executive Director	Yakima Valley Libraries	Yakima	WA

CC:

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, U.S. Senate
Speaker Mike Johnson, U.S. House of Representatives
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, U.S. House of Representatives
Chairman Ted Cruz, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate
Ranking Member Maria Cantwell, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate
Chairman Brett Guthrie, Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives
Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr., Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives