

The Florida Office of Broadband: Digital Equity Planning

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THE FLORIDA STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BROADBAND

The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband was delivered to the Governor, Florida Senate President, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on June 30, 2022.

The plan includes:

- Public input received during broadband workshops held in February 2021.
- Results and public comments received from the survey conducted in March 2021.
- Information and data collected from the Local Technology Planning Team meetings held around the state.
- Input and comments collected through stakeholder interviews conducted by the University of Florida, Public Utilities Research Center in 2022.
- Public input received through the Florida Broadband Availability Map.

DIGITAL EQUITY IN THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BROADBAND

The **Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband** includes digital equity provisions in the following:

Strategy 19

Focus at least a portion of state-level digital equity grant administration efforts on broadband Internet education and training programs, raising awareness of broadband Internet-based applications, and providing equipment to schools, libraries, colleges and universities, health care points of access, housing providers, and community support organizations to assist with digital literacy efforts.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

The **Florida Digital Adoption and Use Program**, part of the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

Purpose:

- To identify barriers to digital adoption and use within the state and create strategies for overcoming them.
- To support digital inclusive activities and build capacities for efforts related to the adoption of broadband.
- To mesh activities with BEAD and the 5-year Strategic Plan for BEAD, and the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Timeline:

The plan development process has begun and will conclude within 12 months with the delivery of a 5-year Florida Digital Adoption and Use Plan. The Office of Broadband will develop the plan in accordance with the statute and provide a minimum of 30 days for public comment to incorporate comments and responses, prior to submission to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Strategic Overview:

Community and stakeholder engagement and a robust data collection process will be the core strategies driving the plan's composition. The state will seek input and collect data from the community and stakeholders. The Office of Broadband's strategy weaves stakeholder engagement throughout the entire planning process. We will employ a mix of strategies, communications channels and messengers to be effective.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Strategic Overview (continued):

At a minimum, the Office will engage with key stakeholders to provide input to the plan. Additional stakeholders the Office will deliberately engage include but are not limited to:

- State political subdivisions.
- Members of the covered populations, which include low-income households, aging individuals, Veterans, individuals with disabilities, members of racial or ethnic minority groups, and residents in state designated Rural Areas of Opportunity.
- State Department of Corrections.
- State and local chambers of commerce/industry associations.
- Higher education institutions/state education department.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Strategic Overview (continued):

At a minimum, the Office intends to engage with the key stakeholders outlined in the NOFO to provide input to the plan. Additional stakeholders the Office will deliberately engage include but are not limited to:

- Public housing resident associations.
- Healthcare systems/networks/state health department.
- Homeless continuum of care providers.
- Private and nonprofit multi-family housing developers and owners
- Faith-based institutions.
- Business owners.
- Local media outlets.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Community Outreach and Engagement:

Outreach activities in the development of the Digital Adoption and Use Plan will involve:

- Forming core teams
 - CareerSource Florida, Office of Broadband, DEO Workforce Services, Enterprise Florida, and the Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT) will make up the planning team.
- Conducting regional public listening sessions throughout the state where community members and residents may provide the state vital information.
- Leveraging a diverse array of communications tools to connect and keep community members and stakeholders informed throughout the process.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Data Collection and Analysis:

Through identified state-directed teams, the Office will identify, review, and compile local digital adoption and use plans and data into the statewide plan.

The Office will conduct data analysis to identify and document barriers and resources related to digital adoption and use including but not limited to the following methods:

- One-on-one interviews and/or focus group interviews with key stakeholders and lived experts.
- Scientific surveys.
- Analysis of Census and other secondary data sources.
- Statewide digital adoption and use asset mapping.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Delivery:

Upon completion, the Office will submit the plan to NTIA and distribute to state's residents through the following mechanisms:

- A dedicated website related to the plan, with information about its background and online dashboards tracking its implementation progress.
- Distribution of the plan to all stakeholders who participated in the planning process.

FLORIDA DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

Current Procurement:

The Office of Broadband is procuring a vendor to administer the development of the Florida Digital Adoption and Use Plan. Information on the solicitation of the vendor can be found on the Office of Broadband's website: www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband

LINKS TO IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The Florida Office of Broadband website (www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband) hosts the following resources:

- The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband
- Florida Digital Adoption and Use Plan
- The Faster Florida Broadband Map
- Florida's Broadband Availability Map and Internet Speed Test
- Local Technology Planning Teams Broadband Planning Toolkit
- State and federal broadband funding opportunities

Link to Strategic Plan

- <https://FloridaJobs.org/docs/default-source/Community-Planning-Development>

Link to Florida Statute 2288.9961, Promotion of broadband adoption; Florida Office of Broadband

- <https://www.FISenate.gov/laws/statutes/2021/288.9961>

Link to the Florida Digital Adoption and Use Plan Page

- https://FloridaJobs.org/docs/default-source/awi-press-releases/Florida-Digital-Adoption-and-Use-Plan.pdf?sfvrsn=317757b0_2

Thank You



If you have questions about this presentation or need to discuss a future project, please contact our office.

www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband



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