

Opportunities to Shape Minnesota's Digital Equity Plan

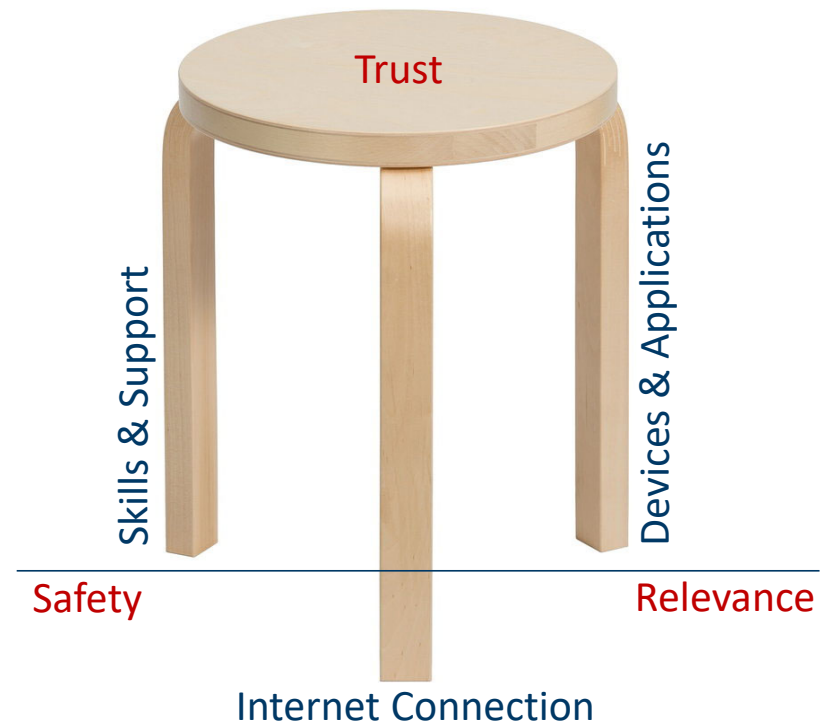
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Complex Solutions for Complex Challenges

- Who is using this stool?
- Why are they using this stool?
- Why aren't they using this stool?
- Is one stool enough?
- Would they benefit from a seatback?
- Do they want armrests?
- What is this stool standing on?
- What is the stool made of?
- Who built the stool?
- Is this stool sturdy?



What's the plan for the Plan?

Date	Activity
by January 30	Digital Inclusion Planning Team registration opens; mini-grant application materials posted
March 1	Mini-grant applications due
March 15	Digital Inclusion Planning Team registration closes
April 3 – June 30	Digital Inclusion Planning Team and mini-grant activities underway
July	OBD compiles plan based on Planning Team information
August and September	Draft digital equity plan released. OBD hosts regional gatherings to bring together grantees, solicit feedback on plan, strengthen professional networks, etc.
October	OBD revises plan based on feedback
November	Final plan submitted to NTIA

Digital Inclusion Planning Teams: What Are They?

- Self-selected workgroups formed on a voluntary basis by political subdivisions, anchor institutions, non-profits, MN-based businesses, faith-based organizations, etc.
- Teams gather local information about digital inclusion assets, needs, and goals; this information shapes the content of the Digital Equity Plan
- Workload is flexible based on Team capacity
- Register with OBD by **March 15**
- Planning Team activities underway from **April 3 – June 30**

Planning Teams: What Do They Do?

What Planning Teams Do for OBD:

- Collect local information about digital inclusion assets, needs, and goals
- Submit a summary of this information *without personally identifiable information* to OBD
- Serve as trusted messengers between OBD and Minnesota communities

What OBD Does for Planning Teams:

- Provide templates for collecting information through tools like surveys and conversation circles
- Organize opportunities for Planning Teams to network with one another
- Communicate regularly throughout planning process

Bonus: Mini-Grant Opportunity

- Many Planning Teams will be eligible for a non-competitive mini-grant
- Applications open by January 30 and are due **March 1 at 12:00 p.m.** Central
- Grant period is **April 3 to June 30**
- Example uses of funds:
 - Wages for staff to carry out digital inclusion assessment activities
 - Supplies and/or equipment necessary to create or support information gathering
 - Contractual services, such as a consultant specializing in assessment
 - Fees associated with reserving meeting spaces for focus groups, interviews, etc.
 - Subscription to survey software during the duration of the grant period

For More Information

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