Digital Equity Leaders Network

What is the Digital Equity Leaders Network (DELN)?

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's **BroadbandUSA program** convenes and facilitates the Digital Equity Leaders Network (DELN), a community of practitioners who work on increasing digital equity and digital inclusion and access at the local, county, regional and state government levels.

DELN participants meet virtually each month. Participants share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues occurring at all levels of government. DELN provides a forum to strengthen policy and program connections among local, regional, and state jurisdictions and federal agencies, providing opportunities to improve funding coordination, align policies, and address barriers to collaboration across states and agencies. NTIA's Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) works with DELN participants to support local, regional, and state government staff with technical assistance on NTIA's grant programs as well as how they can work and partner with communities, businesses, and organizations within their jurisdictions.

Who participates?

Approximately 120 local, 4 regional, and 150 state and territory government staff from 51 states and territories actively participate in DELN. Since each jurisdiction of government approaches digital equity, digital inclusion, broadband access differently, it is important to have these voices participate. Participants are usually part of a dedicated digital equity office or programs in their local, regional, or state government or have identified digital equity and broadband as a specific responsibility within their agency or department. The positions may reside in the mayor or county executive offices, offices of technology and innovation, economic development, public library or local education offices, public utility/public service commission, newly formed digital equity offices, or state or territorial broadband offices.

What digital equity and broadband activities happen at the local, regional, and state level?

DELN serves as a space for trainings, conversations, and technical assistance on the **Digital Equity Act** which provides $2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion.

The BroadbandUSA website lists digital inclusion programs across state and local governments. While most programs focus on digital equity, digital inclusion, and workforce development, some address broadband access and infrastructure. Other topic areas include telehealth/telemedicine, education, digital literacy skill development and training, K-12 and adult STEM/STEAM programs, IT career advancement training and employment, economic development, digital equity and broadband mapping, digital equity investments, technical assistance, policy improvements and interventions, and innovation.

If you are interested in digital equity and broadband initiatives at the local, regional, and state level, please visit NTIA's Digital Inclusion Page. For more information, contact digitalequity@ntia.gov.