

VIII. Old Business

A. Update on Digital Access for All Idahoans Statewide Plan – Information item

The Idaho Commission for Libraries was designated by Governor Little as the lead for statewide planning efforts under the Digital Equity Act. We look forward to working with a wide variety of partners, including the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board and Boise State University Idaho Policy Institute, to draft the Digital Access for All Idahoans plan. Idaho received its planning award, totaling \$564,706, on November 15, 2022. We have until November 14, 2023, to submit the plan.

Each state's plan is required to contain the following elements:

- A vision statement
- A needs assessment
- An asset inventory of existing digital inclusion resources, programs, plans, and strategies
- A coordination and outreach strategy
- A description of how existing local digital equity plans will be incorporated into the State Digital Equity Plan
- A holistic implementation strategy that addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world, and includes (1) measurable goals, objectives, and proposed core activities to address the needs of covered populations, (2) measures to ensure the plan's sustainability and effectiveness, and (3) mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and updates
- An explanation of how the implementation strategy addresses gaps in existing state, local, and private efforts to address the barriers to digital equity for covered populations
- A description of how the state will accomplish the implementation strategy by engaging and partnering with workforce agencies, community-based organizations and labor organizations, and higher education institutions
- A timeline for implementation of the plan
- An outline of how the state will coordinate its DEA, BEAD, and other federal or private digital equity funding

Upcoming activities:

- Present at Idaho Broadband Advisory Board on December 20, 2022
- Attend reoccurring meetings with Idaho Broadband Office Manager, BSU, and internal Digital Access team
- Form a statewide coalition and meet quarterly with all interested partners
- Form a smaller steering committee to be more involved with planning efforts
- Encourage counties and/or communities to create broadband action teams
- BSU will conduct English and Spanish telephone surveys
- BSU will conduct at least six regional focus groups
- BSU will draft the asset mapping component
- A draft plan will be ready for a 30-day public comment period in July or August 2023