Eligibility

My organization is not a 501 (c) 3. Can we still apply?
Yes, you can apply without a 501 (C) 3 status, but you will need to secure a fiscal sponsor before submitting your application.

My organization is not located in Seattle. Are we eligible to apply?
Organizations outside of Seattle are not eligible to apply, unless you partner with an organization in Seattle that is the lead applicant AND you serve Seattle residents. You may be a partner in the project providing services in Seattle with a Seattle based grantee, but you cannot receive the funds directly. If you are an organization headquartered outside of Seattle but have an office in Seattle, you would qualify if serving Seattle residents.

We are working with a Fiscal Sponsor on our project. What is the going rate for those services?
Fiscal sponsors typically charge 3%-15%, to fiscally manage a project. You can include 10% as an expense on your project. If your Fiscal Sponsor waives their fee, you can count the value of the services as match.

My organization received a Tech Matching Fund grant last year. Can I apply again this year?
Yes, you may apply each year for a new project or an expansion of an existing project. We will not fund ongoing operations for an organization.

My organization is a school. Can we apply for funding?
Yes, with a few limitations. The project must be for an out-of-school-time program, or it should clearly involve community members besides the students. The application must come from a PTSA or other non-profit organization that you partner with.

We received a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant? Can we use this as match?
No, you cannot match City funds with other City funds.

Can organizations that are currently receiving City funds still apply for a grant?

Yes, you can apply to continue a project that has been completed or launch a new program. Projects that are currently being funded by the City are not eligible for funding. If continuing, it's helpful to note how the new project builds on what you've been doing with the current project or meets another need.

My organization serves populations inequitably impacted by the digital divide (low-income residents and older adults). Can we partner with an organization to provide devices and tech support to our clients?

Yes, organizations can apply as a partnership, but only one of the organizations will apply as the lead organization for the project. The lead organization can add information about the partnership in the application questions that detail the project description and implementation. Partners on the project can have different roles in the project outlined by a partnership agreement between the project organizations. If you are looking for a partner on a project, please reach out to the Digital Equity Learning Network to connect with other organizations focused on digital equity work.

Grant Goals

My project combines digital literacy skills training and devices. How many digital equity grant categories can I select for my project?
Select all grant categories that apply to your project.

How do I know if digital navigator services is the primary focus of my budget? Is this a requirement?
If you are allocating more than 50% of your total budget to digital navigator services, you may select "yes" in the application under "Digital Navigator Projects." There is no requirement to provide digital navigator services.

If I reference the Internet for All Report of the Technology Access and Adoption Study, should I cite this to establish a need for our project? If you use data from these reports, please indicate the source of the data in your application narrative.

If we want to help clients access the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and distribute devices, would we qualify for this grant even if we do not do ACP outreach? Yes, you are eligible to apply for funding even if you do not do ACP outreach. If your goal is not ACP outreach and enrollment, do not select this as a digital equity grant category you are addressing.

Grant Review

How are projects selected for funding? Community volunteer reviewers will rate your proposal for a total of 50 points. A review panel of City staff will award bonus points for cohort participation and make final funding recommendations. Please see the 2023 Grant Guidelines on our website seattle.gov/digitalequitygrants for information about the review criteria. Proposals will be scored using a race and social justice framework. For more information about the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative, see seattle.gov/rsji.

How can I meet with Digital Equity Program staff to review my Preliminary Application? Once you submit a Preliminary Application by the March 13 deadline, email communitytechnology@seattle.gov to schedule an appointment to review your application. You will not be able to get feedback on your application after March 13. All required questions must be answered to submit the Preliminary Application. Responses will not be scored, so provide as much or as little information as needed to get feedback on your application.

Are we required to participate in a cohort of funded organizations? No, participating in a cohort is not a requirement of the grant. There will be 1-3 points awarded by a Review Panel for organizations who do elect to participate.

Eligible Expenses

We need to upgrade our staff computers and purchase software to deliver services. Can we include this in our budget? Yes, if the program funds equipment that will help to implement the project and achieve client outcomes.

My organization wants to provide more free internet access to underserved residents in our area. Can our grant budget include expenses for getting the technical planning assistance we need to determine the right layout and equipment, as well as actually implementing the system?
Yes, projects that will increase free internet connectivity for homeless, low-income, and other underserved residents could include budget for technical consultation services to identify the specific equipment and configuration to serve the target area. If you need more support understaning your options, please contact us at communitytechnology@seattle.gov. Some examples of connectivity projects include:
- Equipment to extend existing Wi-Fi in and around homeless shelters, affordable housing, and human service provider buildings.
- Equipment to outfit a mobile Wi-Fi bus or van or other types of pop-up connectivity for underserved residents.
- Indoor and outdoor free mobile internet solutions [using public Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) spectrum].

Can funds be used to cover costs for organizational technology to provide services or should the funds be used primarily for direct services? Funds can be used to pay for organizational technology if the technology is needed to support digital equity services.

Can funds be used to pay consultants instead of staff? Funds can be used to pay both consultants and staff. We recommend that you clearly outline the role of consultants and staff in your application narrative.

If you have questions, email communitytechnology@seattle.gov or attend an Information Session (meeting link on seattle.gov/digitalequitygrants).