

## **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)**

### **District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)**

### **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**

### **Non-Deployment Digital Equity Projects**

The District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds to support eligible non-deployment activities that promote digital equity in the District. This NOFA is issued pursuant to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and in alignment with the District's State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP).

#### **Program Overview**

The BEAD Program's non-deployment grants aim to advance digital inclusion initiatives by enhancing access to affordable high-speed internet, providing digital devices, and fostering digital literacy. DC will prioritize projects that address the needs of underserved and marginalized populations.

#### **Funding Availability**

Grants will be awarded through a competitive process. Funding is available for a variety of non-deployment activities that further DC's digital equity goals, as outlined in the State Digital Equity Plan.

#### **Total Available Funding:**

- Non-Deployment Subgrants: \$60.06 million

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and other entities capable of advancing digital equity. Applicants must demonstrate alignment with DC's digital equity goals, including providing affordable internet, digital devices, and digital skills training.

#### **Priority Areas**

Non-deployment activities will be evaluated based on their alignment with the following goals:

1. **Equitable Internet Access:** Projects that make high-quality, affordable, high-speed internet available to all residents, particularly underserved communities.
2. **Digital Devices and Support:** Initiatives providing low-cost or no-cost devices and IT support to residents most in need.

3. **Digital Literacy and Skills:** Programs that create pathways for digital literacy, focusing on privacy, cybersecurity, accessibility, and inclusivity.
4. **Community Partnerships:** Projects that establish strategic partnerships to promote economic development, workforce goals, and health outcomes.

### **Application Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- **Alignment with Digital Equity Goals:** How well the project aligns with the District's digital equity objectives, such as equitable internet access and device provision.
- **Project Feasibility:** Clear, measurable goals, a detailed plan of action, and a feasible timeline.
- **Prior Experience and Impact:** Subject matter expertise and prior experience with successful non-deployment initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:** Demonstrated engagement with local communities and stakeholder support.
- **Sustainability:** Plans for sustaining the initiative beyond the initial funding.
- **Innovation:** Proposing a feasible yet innovative approach to addressing long-standing broadband and digital equity challenges across the District.

### **Compliance Requirements**

Awardees must comply with all federal and local regulations, including environmental and labor standards, and must ensure accessibility, inclusivity, and transparency throughout the implementation of their projects.

### **Important Dates**

- **NOFA Publication Date:** February 7, 2025
- **Pre-Application Instructional Webinar:** February 20, 2025
- **Pre-Application Portal Opens:** February 21, 2025
- **Draft Request for Applications (RFA) for Public Comment Posted for 14 days:** February 21, 2025
- **RFA Opens:** March 7, 2025

### **Contact Information**

For more information or to submit questions, please contact Kevin Hughes at [octo.grants@dc.gov](mailto:octo.grants@dc.gov) visit [techtgetherdc.com](http://techtgetherdc.com).