



## Digital Equity Newsletter

*December 2023*

Welcome to Literacy Minnesota's newest monthly newsletter – One Network. This newsletter is an overview of the digital equity services offered by organizations like Literacy Minnesota and resources for those wanting to know more about digital equity. To see previous issues of this newsletter, visit this link: <https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation>

For more information contact Frances Bates at [fbates@literacymn.org](mailto:fbates@literacymn.org).

### **Covered within this issue:**

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<https://www.literacymn.org/>

700 Raymond Avenue Suite 180, Saint Paul, MN 55114

**Mission:** To share the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy.

# Meet Our TEQuity Staff

## Digital Equity Team



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# Our Digital Literacy Services

We offer support in a variety of areas including teaching digital skills and helping you get internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

<https://www.literacymn.org/digitalliteracy>

## Northstar Digital Literacy

The Northstar program assesses digital skills and provides classroom curriculum and self-directed online learning.



<https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>



## Digital Equity and Navigation

Digital Navigators mentor learners in using technology and can help you get free internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

<https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation>



**Midway Location:** 553 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104

The Midway digital literacy lab at Goodwill Easter Seals is open 10am to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Manee is there the whole time and Nick is there in the afternoons. For more information on our services contact Susan at [swbrandt@literacymn.org](mailto:swbrandt@literacymn.org).

The **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

<https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation#affordable-connectivity-program>



<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>

<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>

## Trainings and Workshops

We offer a variety of digital literacy programming, including webinars about using Northstar.

<https://www.literacymn.org/digital-literacy-trainings-workshops>

# Other Initiatives in Minnesota

Check out this newsletter's resource section on our website to see more local organizations.

<https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-newsletter-resources>

## Neighborhood House



179 Robie St E  
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Their Digital Inclusion team supports individuals and families in getting low-cost devices, high-speed internet connection in the home, and digital literacy skills. We will see if your household is eligible for Affordable Connectivity Program or Lifeline, which offers a discount on your monthly internet and/or phone bill. For more information contact Katrina Benson at [kbenson@neighborhoodhousemn.org](mailto:kbenson@neighborhoodhousemn.org).

<https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/>

## PCs for People



**Main location:** 1481 Marshall Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104

**Recycling Center:** 2492 Doswell Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108

This is a nonprofit social enterprise working to get low-cost quality computers and internet into the homes of individuals, families, and nonprofits with low income.

<https://www.pcsforpeople.org/>



**Office of Broadband Development** - 180 5th St E, Saint Paul, MN 55101

<https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/>

Helping Minnesotans understand broadband options available and work together to improve availability and use of high-speed broadband services.





# Community Bulletin

## Connectivity Blueprint: *Digital Equity Roadmap for Ramsey County and Saint Paul*

Connectivity Blueprint is an initiative led by Ramsey County and Saint Paul to create a community-guided roadmap for achieving digital inclusion. Find out more by checking out the links below.

- <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/ramsey-connected-computer-internet-resources/connectivity-blueprint>
- <https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Workforce%20Development/Connectivity%20Blueprint%204.12.23.pdf>

### **Technology Literacy Collaborative (TLC)**

The TLC is a group of aspiring leaders in the digital equity field within the Twin Cities. They gather to problem solve and discuss best practices. The Digital Inclusion Program Supervisor at Neighborhood House, Katrina Benson, created the group to continue that work of the Connectivity Blueprint initiative.

Today the members work together by having different people host either a Zoom or in person meeting. To help with building community, each meeting the members spend time introducing themselves before any topics are covered. This practice has allowed the group to create what they call an Asset Inventory. It is an informative spreadsheet that has details of Minnesota based digital equity services.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> there will be an in-person meetup happening. It will be from 4-6pm at Amore Coffee, 879 Smith Ave S, St Paul, MN 55118. Anyone is welcome to join the group's discussion or just come listen in while enjoying a hot beverage.

If you have any questions or are interested in join the group, reach out to Katrina at [kbenson@neighborhoodhousemn.org](mailto:kbenson@neighborhoodhousemn.org).



### **Upcoming meetup details:**

When: December 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm

Where: Amore Coffee - 879 Smith Ave S, St Paul, MN 55118

# Glossary



## **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**

The ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

## **Browser**

A software application (such as Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, or Mozilla Firefox) that allows users to access the Internet.

## **Digital Equity**

A condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Sometimes called TEQuity/Tech Equity which is the shortening of technology equity.

## **Digital Literacy**

The ability and knowledge needed to access and operate internet-connected devices, to successfully use commonly available software, and to navigate and utilize online resources in order to effectively communicate and complete social and work-related tasks in a virtual space.

## **Digital Navigators**

Trusted guides who assist community members in internet adoption and the use of computing devices. Digital navigation services include ongoing assistance with affordable internet access, device acquisition, technical skills, and application support.

## **Email**

A system (such as Google Gmail, Microsoft Outlook, and Yahoo! Mail) that allows the user to transmit messages electronically.

## **Internet**

An electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world.

## **Network**

A system that connects two or more computing devices for transmitting and sharing information.

## **Search Engine**

Programs (such as Google, Bing, and Yahoo!) that allow you to find specific information online.

## **Server**

A type of computer that is equipped with software and hardware to offer services to other computers connected to it.

## **Wi-Fi**

A wireless networking technology that allows devices such as computers, smartphones, and other equipment (printers and video cameras) to interface with the Internet.

# Resources

## General

### Connectivity Blueprint:

*Digital Equity Roadmap for Ramsey County and Saint Paul*

### Connectivity Blueprint

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/ramsey-connected-computer-internet-resources/connectivity-blueprint>



### Digital Equity Act

<https://www.digitalequityact.org/>



### National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE)

<https://www.digitalequity.us/>



### National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)

<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/>

## Glossary Sources

### Internet vs. Wi-Fi

- <https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/wireless/what-is-wifi.html>
- <https://www.longlines.com/blog/internet-vs-wifi-whats-the-difference#:~:text=Wi%2DFi%20connects%20devices%20within,%2C%20routers%2C%20and%20other%20infrastructure.>

### Other

- <https://www.spiceworks.com/tech/networking/articles/what-is-a-computer-network/>
- <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-server-definition-lesson-quiz.html>
- <https://thecenterfordigitalequity.org/>
- <https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/>
- <https://www.vocabulary.com/>



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**More information here:** <https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation#one-network-newsletter>

**Join the mailing list here:** <https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-signup>

**Questions, comments, or concerns?** - Contact Frances Bates at [fbates@literacymn.org](mailto:fbates@literacymn.org).



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