

# Idaho Digital Access Resources

Please contact [DEP@uidaho.edu](mailto:DEP@uidaho.edu) to submit additional digital access resources.

## Affordable, Robust Broadband Internet Service

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[Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program](#) is a benefit program that provides grant subsidies to eligible households to pay monthly internet service costs.

[Education Superhighway](#) works to increase adoption of the Affordable Connectivity Program.

[Idaho Commission for Libraries Public Wi-Fi Map](#) shows free public Wi-Fi hotspots at Idaho's Public Libraries.

[The Idaho State Department of Education \(SDE\) Broadband Program](#) is responsible for reimbursing Idaho's E-rate eligible entities for the remaining portion of eligible broadband costs after their E-rate discount is applied.

[Idaho State Department of Education's Empowering Parents program](#) provides funding for Idaho students to purchase internet devices.

## Internet-enabled Devices that Meet the Needs of the User

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[Idaho Commission for Libraries Connection Communities Digital Inclusion Program](#) provides Chromebooks and accessories to public libraries throughout Idaho for the purpose of expanding digital inclusion, equity, and literacy efforts.

[PCs for People](#) provides refurbished computers to eligible customers for affordable prices.

[TechSoup](#) provides refurbished laptop computers for libraries, nonprofits, and others.

Idaho [Empowering Parents Program](#) provides eligible families with grants funds for use toward eligible education services and devices.

## Access to Digital Literacy Training

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Idaho Digital Skills, provided by the Idaho Commission for Libraries offers Idahoans free access to online learning tools to increase their digital skills in English and Spanish.

Google for Education Applied Digital Skills courses are free learning modules that teach practical digital skills.

University of Idaho Extension's Digital Economy Program will provide digital skill development resources in Idaho communities.

## Quality Technical Support

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National Digital Inclusion Alliance's Digital Navigator Model engages individuals who address the whole digital inclusion process — home connectivity, devices, and digital skills — with community members through repeated interactions.

## Applications and Online Content Designed to Enable and Encourage Self Sufficiency, Participation, and Collaboration

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Idaho Digital E-Book Alliance (IDEA) is a statewide partnership between the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), public libraries, and school libraries with the goal of expanding access while reducing barriers to digital e-books and e-audio.

Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) is a group of projects and services that bring networked library service to the residents of Idaho.

Idaho Relay Service, through Hamilton Relay, provides telecommunications relay services for the state of Idaho including TTY, Voice Carry Over (VCO), Hearing Carry Over (HCO), Speech-to-Speech (STS), Visually Assisted Speech-to-Speech (VA STS), Spanish and CapTel®.

## Funding Resources, Tools, and Data

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### Idaho Department of Commerce Broadband Funding

Community Connect Grant Program – Open – Due June 20, 2023

USDA Broadband Technical Assistance Grant – Open – Due June 20, 2023

BroadbandUSA Fixed Broadband Community Report provides broadband data statewide and by county.

United States Department of Agriculture Broadband Program provides Broadband funding opportunities, and e-connectivity Toolkit, and telecom grant resources.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration Local Government Resources Page includes resources for grants, Broadband, Digital Inclusion, and more.

Washington State University Extension's Broadband Resource Workbook provides information, templates, and worksheets to assist in building a local broadband action plan.

## Local Resources and Contacts

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### Department of Commerce – Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Idaho Broadband Strategic Plan

Contact: Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez /  
ramon.hobdeysanchez@commerce.idaho.gov

### Idaho Commission for Libraries

Digital Access for All Idahoans

Idaho Digital Access Workbook

Contact: Chelsea Summerlin / chelsea.summerlin@libraries.idaho.gov

Imagine Idaho supports Idaho communities by providing resources dedicated to ensuring that every Idahoan has access to reliable and affordable broadband.

Contact: Christina Culver / [christina@imagineidaho.org](mailto:christina@imagineidaho.org)

University of Idaho Extension Digital Economy Program's mission is to reduce the digital divide, allowing the benefits of digitalization to extend to all Idahoans, so no one is left behind, nor left offline, in the growing digital economy. Contact DEP for connection to local and statewide resources.

Contact: Amber Smyer / [asmeyer@uidaho.edu](mailto:asmeyer@uidaho.edu)

*Initial resource list developed through cooperation with the following organizations for the “Readying Idaho's Rural Communities to Capture the Benefits of Digitalization” workshop on April 12, 2023:*



**DIGITAL  
ECONOMY  
PROGRAM**  
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Idaho  
Commission  
*for Libraries*