

Seven Star Communities Scoring Criteria Worksheet

This worksheet allows Seven Star Communities applicants to review the indicators and “pre-score” themselves prior to submitting an online application. The point values for each indicator are shown, as are the total possible points for each category. Users may tally up points for the indicators they meet to see their potential score. **Applicants require a minimum of 8 points to be considered a Seven Star Community.**

**Please note that this worksheet is intended only for estimating scores and preparing to submit an application. All applicants must submit an online application, and final scores may differ based on the completeness of applications and documentation submitted.*

1. Community Champion (up to 2 points for achieving both indicators)

A. Demonstrate regular engagement with Tribal citizens and community members impacted by the digital divide (1 point). Documentation shows consistent and ongoing engagement with community members and citizens within the past 5 years, AND/OR Community champion is recognized for impactful community engagement with those most affected by the digital divide within the past five years.

B. Host community conversations providing education and awareness about digital inclusion, such as public meetings, listening sessions, community gatherings and district meetings (1 point). Documentation shows how feedback gathered from community conversations (e.g., surveys or meeting notes) informs work.

2. Planning Process (3 points for achieving indicator A or 1 point for achieving indicator B - may only receive points for one indicator in this category)

A. Published local digital equity plan; or digital inclusion is included in Native nation strategic plan (3 points). Applicant has submitted a published local digital equity plan OR A distinct digital equity and broadband deployment section of the strategic plan.

B. The process of creating a digital equity plan, or strategic document to include digital inclusion, is underway (1 point). Documentation shows that the creation of a digital equity plan has been approved or is underway, AND/OR Documentation shows how digital equity and broadband deployment will form part of the Native nation strategic plan.

3. Tribal government support (up to 2 points for achieving both indicators)

A. Practice Indigenous digital sovereignty through the ability to enforce policies that seek to protect their citizens, lands, resources, programs and communities (1 point). Documentation shows how policies support and uphold digital sovereignty in the Tribe, and are in consideration of the values and culture of the Tribe, e.g., ownership and control of data, infrastructure, and networks by Native entities.

B. Tribal government officially declares support for digital inclusion (1 point). A Tribal leader(s) publicly expresses support for digital equity initiatives, AND/OR A tribal government provides an official response to the digital divide and acknowledgement of applicant's role in the work e.g. recognizing initiatives in a Tribal resolution, State of the Nation address, recognizing Digital Inclusion Week, a regional council of Tribes, or other official declarations.

4. Tribal resources available to support the work (up to 3 points for achieving all indicators)

A. Staff dedicated to digital inclusion within the applicant organization (1 point). Part time or full time positions or volunteers who have digital equity initiatives as part of their position description or duties, AND/OR Digital inclusion initiatives have been meaningfully incorporated as part of their larger work in adjacent fields (e.g., workforce development, internet service provider, elder center, cultural center, or education).

B. Use of discretionary funds for digital inclusion programming (1 point). Clear decision making from the Tribal entity in supporting digital inclusion projects funded in part within a programmatic budget to work towards digital inclusion initiatives.

C. Hosting a public digital inclusion website, webpage or social media account (1 point). Current, up-to-date website with information about digital inclusion related initiatives and activities (e.g., content on resources, videos, and events).

5. Place-based digital equity programs (up to 7 points for achieving all indicators)

A. Digital skills (1 point). Digital skills training or classes are offered to the community, including instruction for specific populations, AND/OR Direct support for programs are provided to a community partner(s) by the applicant.

B. Device access (1 point). Device access programs are present. Programs can include: publicly available devices (e.g. computer labs, loan program in place, learn to earn programs, etc.); devices distributed for people to own (e.g. partnership with refurbisher) and/or; sustainable initiatives (e.g. providing tech support, replacement program for devices, offering free or subsidized devices), AND/OR Direct support for program(s) is provided to community partner(s) by the applicant.

C. Digital navigators (or equivalent) (2 points). Digital navigator program offers consistent one-on-one support and in-person classes are widely available, AND/OR Consistent services are offered or office hours are instituted in their work week, AND/OR Direct support for programs is provided to community partner(s) by the applicant.

D. Targeted programming to serve areas of the community (1 point).

Applicant provides digital inclusion services directed toward specific populations (e.g., elders, veterans, youth), AND/OR Applicant provides programming that works with community partners to identify and address digital equity barriers (e.g., working with other entities to understand areas of need to target support; utilizes local experts, data, or feedback to develop curriculum), AND/OR Applicant provides direct support for community partner program(s).

E. Culturally matched programs (1 point). Programs directly reflect the Tribal community and are developed for the Tribal community, considering their culture, language, family dynamics, economic opportunity, etc., e.g. a program's goals include advancing a participants' understanding of how technology is related to preserving, celebrating the culture of the Tribe, AND/OR Direct support for programs is provided to community partner(s) by the applicant.

F. Broadband Adoption & Affordability (1 point). Applicant advocates and provides resources for affordable broadband options, (e.g., free wifi spaces or hotspot devices are provided to public; infrastructure efforts have been completed or are in progress; offers or advocates for affordable broadband options for citizens/members/residents; provides an internet subsidy program for Tribal citizens or target populations), AND/OR Direct support for programs is provided to community partner(s) by the applicant.

6. Being a Steward for a Digital Equity Ecosystem (up to 5 points for achieving all indicators)

A. Hosting or membership in a formalized digital inclusion coalition, committee, working group, or other initiative focused on the local digital ecosystem (1 point). Applicant is a member/host/co-host of a local coalition that supports digital inclusion, and has consistent engagement with the coalition to advocate for and represent Tribal interests.

B. Hosting or membership in a formalized digital inclusion coalition, committee, working group, or other initiative beyond the local community (1 point). Applicant is a member/host/co-host of a digital inclusion coalition or consortium to represent Tribal digital equity interests (e.g., regional Tribal organizations, NCAI Telecommunications committee, state broadband or digital equity committee).

C. Participation in Tribal legislative and rulemaking processes to promote digital equity (1 point). Applicant can show their participation was integral to enacting laws or policies in the Tribe for digital inclusion initiatives (e.g., comments submitted during legislative or rulemaking processes).

D. Participation in external (intertribal regional/national, state, and federal) legislative and rulemaking processes to promote digital equity (1 point).

Applicant has provided comments or support for laws in intertribal regional/national, state, or federal proceedings, AND/OR Applicant provided documentation showing collaboration with intertribal regional/national, state, and federal entities on laws or policies that promote digital equity.

E. Featured on a national or regional platform to advocate for or represent the Tribal community's digital equity interests and initiatives (1 point).

Applicant shows participation on a panel or as a plenary speaker at a conference to highlight digital equity issues or successes for the Tribe (e.g., agenda of event or recordings are sufficient), AND/OR Digital equity work has been featured on a national or regional platform (e.g., newspaper, magazine, radio, podcasts, video) and the content is shareable.

7. Our Stories (up to 3 points for achieving all indicators)

A. Share how your community understands the digital divide (1 point).

Applicant provides general context and perspectives about the digital divide in their community; they demonstrate the need for digital inclusion initiatives, AND/OR Applicant offers a collection of perspectives and resources to understand the digital divide, AND/OR Stories have been shared publicly or have been published in an effort to spur conversation about the digital divide.

B. Share how and where you are collecting, documenting, and distributing digital inclusion resources in your community (1 point).

Applicant has compiled information about the community from secondary digital inclusion data (American Community Survey, FCC Mapping, Affordable Connectivity Program Enrollments, etc.), and has collected and documented information on their specific community (i.e., asset mapping, community surveys, internet speed tests, etc.).

C. Share how you are measuring your direct impact (1 point).

Applicant provides narrative and supporting documents of the process of measuring impact, such as goals, objectives, action items, timeline, budget AND/OR Applicant has published or distributed this information to help advocate for more digital inclusion initiatives in their community.

25 Total points possible

(Minimum of 8 points required to achieve Seven Star Community Status)