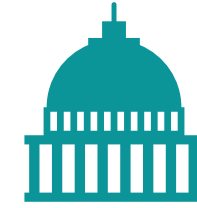


## Indicator 1: The state dedicates human or financial resources to digital inclusion



By dedicating human and financial resources to digital inclusion, state governments give institutional and tangible support to digital equity as a necessary condition for full civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

Digital inclusion staff can lead coordination between agencies and departments to align goals for improving digital access for residents and maximize the impact of state initiatives by reaching more residents efficiently. As key points of contact for a variety of stakeholders, digital inclusion staff are able to lead community engagement and gather data, allowing state governments to respond dynamically to the needs of communities.

**39 STATES** dedicate human or financial resources to digital inclusion

Dedicated state funding is crucial for the long-term sustainability of digital inclusion initiatives, as it provides stakeholders resources to advance digital inclusion that are not contingent on Federal priorities. While Federal funding remains an important contributor to state and local government initiatives, state governments are well-positioned to design funding opportunities that meet the specific digital inclusion needs of the state.

1.1 Does the state government have at least one dedicated staff person whose primary role is to advance digital inclusion initiatives?

**39 States** have at least one dedicated staff person whose primary role is to advance digital inclusion initiatives

1.2 Does the state have dedicated state funding to support local or state digital inclusion initiatives?

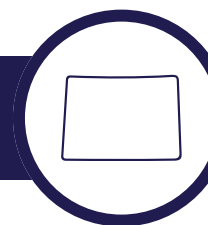
**3 States** have dedicated state funding to support local or state digital inclusion initiatives

### NORTH CAROLINA



In 2021, North Carolina established the Office of Digital Equity and Literacy—the first of its kind in the United States. Building on prior pioneering efforts, the Office of Digital Equity leads engagement with local digital inclusion leaders and facilitates the administration of funding to advance digital equity in every county.

### COLORADO



Colorado dedicated state funds to launch a digital navigator program to help individuals access digital skills training opportunities, affordable broadband, and devices. The investment was enhanced by additional sources of funding, giving the program greater capacity to reach more underserved areas of the state by embedding digital navigators where they are most needed.