

Indicator 4: The state creates and contributes to pathways for device access or low-cost device ownership



Access to internet-enabled devices is essential for full participation in the digital world, and states can create pathways for device access and ownership by contributing to the supply, preparation, and deployment of devices to communities.

Through legislation, administrative policies, and direct funding opportunities, states can support community organizations and anchor institutions in providing devices for public use, and help individuals gain ownership of affordable devices that meet their needs.

State surplus policies (i.e., how states distribute property they no longer need) can be designed to prioritize allocation to entities that serve the public or refurbish devices. States can also consider non-monetary support, such as leveraging state assets to support the storage and transportation of devices to eligible organizations.

States can also design funding opportunities to include entities that prepare computers for low-cost resale, or provide devices directly to households in need.

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STATES

create and contribute to pathways for device access or low-cost device ownership

4.1 Does the state contribute to the supply, preparation, or deployment of devices for public benefit?

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States contribute to the supply, preparation, or deployment of devices for public benefit.

4.2 Does the state allocate funding to help low-income households obtain an internet-enabled device?

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States allocate funding to help low-income households obtain an internet-enabled device.

ILLINOIS



Through the Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network, the Illinois Office of Broadband collaborated with device refurbishers, counties, and community partners to accept and refurbish device donations for redistribution to qualifying households in need of a computer. As of January 2023, over 18,000 refurbished computers had been distributed to eligible households in nearly every county.

MARYLAND



The Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband launched the Connected Devices Program to promote device ownership among households without home access to a computer. Through partnerships with technology companies and trusted community organizations, the program distributed over 130,000 chromebooks to qualifying households and connected recipients to digital navigator services.