Kansas Digital Equity and Inclusion Collaborative

The purpose

Broadband is essential infrastructure, and lack of access is a significant equity issue to address because its wide-ranging applications touch every social determinant of health.

To help Kansas families attain the best possible health, educational and economic outcomes, digital access and literacy is a necessity. This request for proposals (RFP) focuses on engaging collaborative partners to advance equitable digital access and literacy among families of color, low-wage worker households and others experiencing greater systemic barriers that contribute to the wealth gap. **The Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) seeks to engage four organizations to co-create and implement a shared agenda to advocate for greater digital access, literacy and broadband adoption to support long-term goals of improving equitable educational and economic outcomes.**

Proposals Accepted
April 28 through June 4, 2021, 5 PM CT

Eligibility

- Nonprofits tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) and identified as either 509(a)(1) or (a)(2) entities within the Internal Revenue Code
- Government entities
- Religious organizations
- Organizations working with a fiscal sponsor

The work

Four funded organizations will engage in a strategic planning process and policy and advocacy efforts to:

- Develop a framework unique to their local context to advocate for policies, programs and services that promote digital inclusion, provide increased access to a stable, robust internet connection and appropriate devices, and identify/connect communities experiencing the greatest inequities to resources to learn digital literacy skills;
- Educate community members about the disparities in home service usage and build local capacity necessary for more widespread broadband adoption and digital education;
- Create a business case for greater adoption to encourage Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to explore how to extend services to communities with lower home adoption rates;
- Ensure "Smart City" or other city-wide technology initiatives build equity into the planning process to avoid worsening the digital divide; and,
- Closely track sources of federal funding being made available to ensure consumers facing the greatest barriers benefit. Managing and coordinating resources as they become available will be an ongoing part of the strategic planning process.

The structure

KHF anticipates funding four organizations that will each receive up to $250,000. The grant period spans three years, beginning August 1, 2021, ending July 31, 2024.

To learn more

Attend the optional informational **webinar on Tuesday, May 4 at 2:00PM CT** by registering at this link https://khf.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpfuCspj4oGNQiwDT5ScTg-7bEitVw-ZDa. You can also visit the webpage, where you will find a complete request for proposals, FAQ's and more.

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