



# Bringing Digital Equity Home

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# Agenda

- Background
- The Digital Equity Stool
- Challenges and solutions
- Successes
- Questions





# Background

**Digital Equity:** a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.





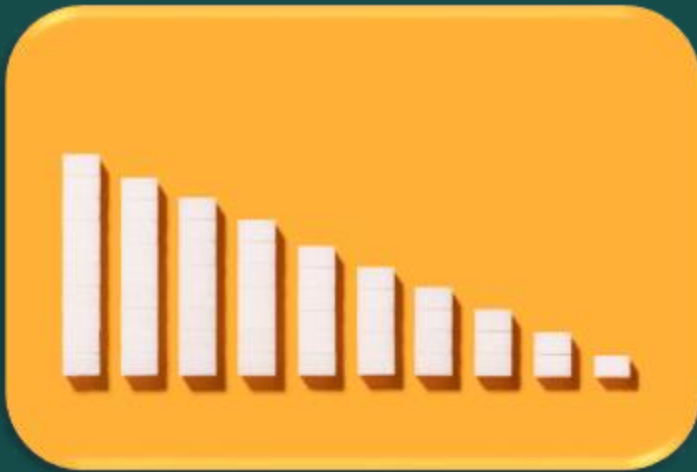
What are some  
common barriers to  
accessing the  
internet/using  
technology?



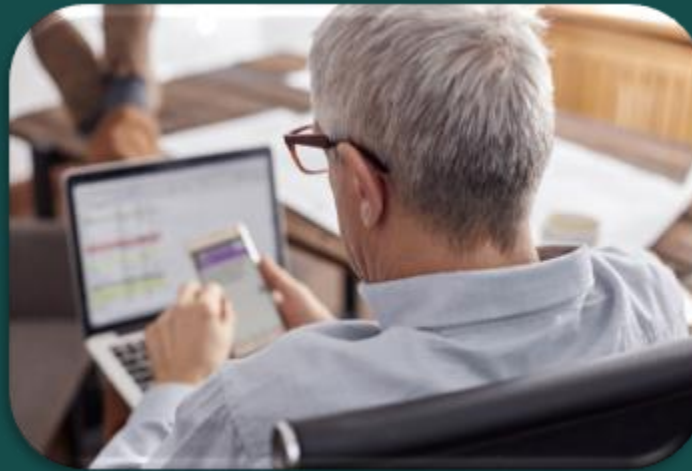
# Three Legs of the Digital Equity Stool



Connectivity



Devices



Education



# The Digital Equity Stool



## Connectivity

- Over 35% of adults aged 65 years and older lack a home broadband connection (*Pew Research Center, 2023*).

## Devices

- Older adults report lowest device ownership rates when compared with other age groups and/or own outdated hardware (*NIH, 2022*).

## Education

- Between 2010 and 2020, internet usage among adults 65 and older jumped from 43% to 75% (*JMIR, 2022*) – increased education has not kept pace with increased ownership.

# Connectivity



## Solutions

- Advocacy for improved policy
  - Committees/commissions
- Pressure on ISPs
  - Improve speeds
  - Expand services
  - Reliable service
  - Lowering costs



# Devices



## Solutions

- Partnerships with ISPs
  - Note any service barriers
- Grant opportunities
- Refurbishment
  - PCs for People
  - Digitunity
  - Computers 4 People
  - Human-I-T



# Education



## Solutions

- Assessment tools
- Partnerships
  - Libraries
  - Nonprofits
  - Universities
- Internal digital literacy
- Hands-on opportunities
- Cultural competency

**What was the most  
cited reason by our  
older adults for taking  
a computer class?**





# Successes

- Partnerships
- Wrap-around services
- Removing barriers
  - Transportation
  - Language support
  - In-person vs. virtual





# Questions?

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