

NEWS RELEASE

Broadband Coordination Office

AMERICAN SAMOA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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Digital Equity Act Updates for American Samoa

The Department of Commerce, Broadband Coordination Opportunities Redevelopment Division (BCORD) Office is pleased to announce the allocation of \$2.1m from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). This funding will go toward the implementation of the Digital Equity Plan, which is currently open for public feedback until April 15 2024.

The Vision of the Digital Equity Plan is to “ensure that our collective villages of American Samoa have access to affordable, inclusive, accessible and secure resources and opportunities to become an effective part of the digital global village.”

We encourage the public to take the time to carefully review the Digital Equity Plan and provide any comments, feedback, or suggestions you may have. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of digital equity initiatives in American Samoa. To access the Digital Equity Plan and submit your comments, please visit broadband.as.gov.

Digital Equity as defined by NTIA is the belief that all individuals and communities have the IT capacity needed for full participation in society, democracy and economy. This includes access to: affordable, high-speed internet, affordable, web-enabled technology, effective training and support for digital skill development and use. Digital inclusion are the activities that ensure all individuals and communities have access to information and communication technologies, and the literacy to use them. As part of ongoing efforts to ensure digital equity and accessibility for all residents of American Samoa, the BCORD Office will be hosting various outreach events, to update the community on new program allocations, grant opportunities and the overall digital equity plan.

BCORD OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

Digital Equity: Listening Session

To learn more about the Digital Equity Plan, the BCORD Office invites the community to voice their concerns, share experiences, and ask questions about the current state of digital access in American Samoa. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue with a panel of experts on how to navigate challenges and leverage opportunities in the digital age.

Event: Digital Equity Listening Session

Date: April 9, 2024

Doors Open: 5:30 pm

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Tafuna DYWA, Conference Room

Join us in-person or virtually at: <https://meet.google.com/tep-xrbc-nxo>

BCORD Office Hour Talks: To discuss the services currently available to our covered populations, and how American Samoa can help foster inclusion and equity in the digital space for these groups. Join us, ask questions, and be a part of the discussion.

- ❖ Location: DOC, Conference Room
- ❖ Time: 9:00 am - 10:00 am
- ❖ Join in-person or virtually at: <https://meet.google.com/oiz-hbfn-wpj>
 - Friday, April 5, 2024: Veteran Services in American Samoa
 - Friday, April 12, 2024: Services for person with disabilities

Roadshow Meetings/Presentations:

To schedule a meeting with our office to discuss any updates, share information about the Digital Equity Program, or learn about grant opportunities, please feel free to contact us. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate and exchange ideas that will benefit our community.

For more information on the Digital Equity Program, please contact the American Samoa Department of Commerce via at email bcord@doc.as.gov or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/amsamoabcord.

Director's Approval:



Petti T. Matila