

DIGITAL EQUITY FOR ALL NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

The outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus has shown us that we are far from true digital equity in New Jersey. Libraries are community anchor institutions and have long been the go-to for providing access, but with greater support we can truly bridge the digital divide.

In the 21st century, digital devices and internet access are necessary for:



EDUCATION



WORK FROM HOME



JOB SEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



TELEHEALTH



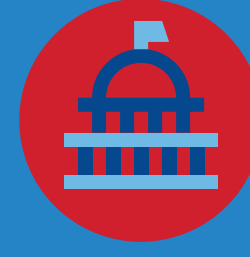
HOUSING & UTILITIES



ONLINE BANKING



COMMUNICATION



GOVERNMENT SERVICES

and much more.

IN NEW JERSEY:

511,354
HOUSEHOLDS *

lack access to broadband Internet



That's more than all of the households in Bergen, Mercer, and Cape May Counties combined.



New Jerseyans in the lowest income bracket have internet access at home at a rate

roughly **HALF** that of those in the highest bracket*

WHAT DO WE NEED?

\$21,000,000 to address New Jersey's Digital Divide and Inequity

This funding could address New Jersey's digital divide by:

Creating wifi access points for individuals & within the community

Replacing & upgrading network infrastructure to Gigabit speed

Providing digital citizenship & literacy training

Supported by the New Jersey Library Alliance. Members are the New Jersey Library Association, the New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Library Network (LibraryLinkNJ).

For more information contact Pat Tumulty, NJ Library Association at ptumulty@njla.org or 609-394-8032.

* Information gathered from U.S. Census Bureau 2013-2017 American Community Survey Five-year Estimates

** Information gathered from National Telecommunications and Information Administration data