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
- New Jerseyans in the lowest income bracket have internet access at home at a rate roughly HALF that of those in the highest bracket*
- That’s more than all of the households in Bergen, Mercer, and Cape May Counties combined.

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).

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* Information gathered from U.S. Census Bureau 2013-2017 American Community Survey Five-year Estimates
** Information gathered from National Telecommunications and Information Administration data