



BEA

New Hampshire Department of
**BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

NEW HAMPSHIRE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN 2025-2029

 Digital Equity
Research Center

 University of
New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension


NCDE
National Collaborative
for Digital Equity

Brief overview of goals and priorities

Primary Goals:

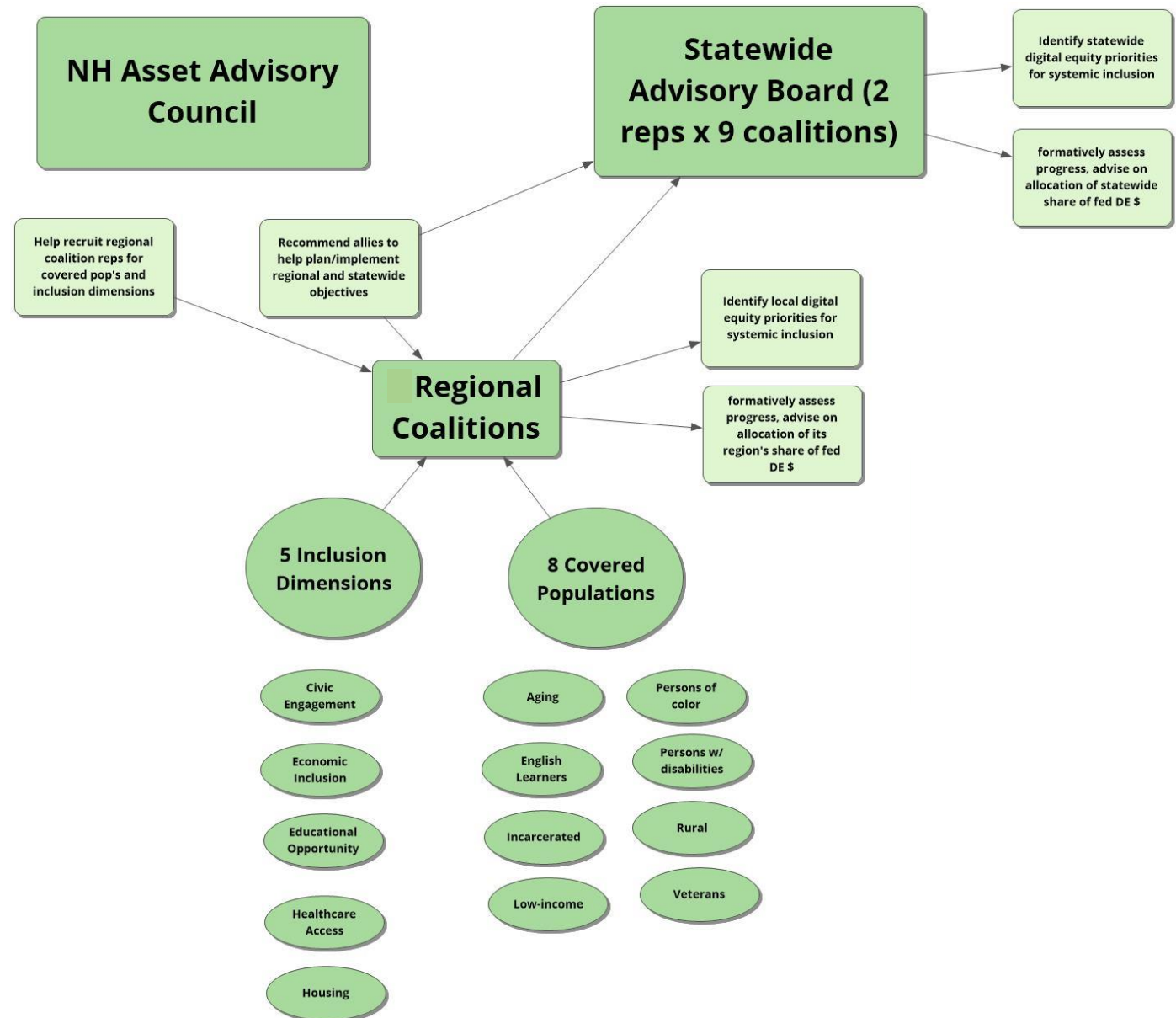
1. Broadband access and affordability
2. Access to computers and assistive devices, coupled with multilingual tech support
3. Enhanced digital literacy skill development capacity
4. Enhanced cybersafety skill development capacity
5. Accessible, inclusive web portals pointing to essential public resources

Areas of Impact (inclusion dimensions):

- Civic engagement
- Economic opportunity
- Educational opportunity
- Healthcare access
- Housing

Planning and Engagement Process

- Ripple Effect Mapping Focus Groups
- Key Informant Interviews w/ 8 covered populations & 5 inclusion dimensions
- Regional Digital Equity Coalitions
- Statewide [Digital Equity Survey](#)
- Statewide [Asset Inventory](#)
- [Statewide Asset Advisory Council](#)
- New Hampshire Summit on Digital Equity
- 30 Days of Public Comment on Draft Plan





Asset Inventory

An important component to the Digital Equity Plan:
The creation of a statewide inventory of existing organizations and programs that **offer digital training or services** to residents and/or **support covered populations** in New Hampshire:

- local, regional, and state governments
- Housing authorities
- K-12, higher education institutions, and adult schools
- Libraries
- Nonprofit and community-based organizations
- Internet Service Providers
- Foundations and other organizations

How the Asset Inventory Will Help

Prototype of the Inventory tool, October 2023

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Digital Equity Resources in NH". At the top right, there are two utility buttons: "Tech support" and "Discounted internet", both with "Click to activate" text. On the left, a sidebar titled "Find organizations by location:" lists various regions: "Choose a town" (Allenstown), "Central" (Filter by this region), "Lakes Region", "Nashua", "North Country", "Rockingham", "Southern", "Southwest", "Strafford", and "Upper Valley Lake Sunapee". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column lists several organizations, with "Concord Public Library" highlighted in blue. The right column displays the details for the Concord Public Library, including its address (45 Green St., Concord, NH 03301), contact information (Mat Bose, 603-230-3686, mbose@concordnh.gov), and a "VISION FOR DIGITAL EQUITY & INCLUSION" statement. Below the vision statement, there are two sections: "FOCUS AREAS" (Education) and "SERVICES PROVIDED" (Broadband Access & Affordability, Device Access, Digital Skills & Technical Support, Public Device & Internet Access). At the bottom, there are navigation tabs for "OVERVIEW" and "SERVICES", and a refresh icon on the right.

Resources, organizations, & programs listed by region

Stated vision for digital equity & inclusion

Contact information for those who seek services

List of services provided

Ensure your organization + programs are included! bit.ly/NHassetinventory

Survey of Covered Populations:

People who live in low-income households

Veterans

Aging individuals

Individuals with a language barrier
(English learners or people with low literacy levels)

Incarcerated individuals, residing in non-federal correctional facilities

Members of a racial or ethnic minority group

Individuals with disabilities

Individuals who live in a rural area

Immigrants living in New Hampshire

Individuals in the LGBTQI+ community

Key Findings: Top Barriers to Broadband Adoption

- Cost
- Internet service is not available
- Not having a computer
- Lack of awareness of ACP



Overarching Strategies

- 1. Put in Place an Inclusive Backbone infrastructure**
- 2. Leverage Existing Efforts and Partnerships**
- 3. Raise Awareness of Programs and Resources**
- 4. Grow state and regional capacity (state asset advisory council and regional DE coalitions)**
- 5. Define the process for distribution of implementation funding**
- 6. Develop decision criteria**
- 7. Sustained Public Outreach and Engagement**
- 8. Monitor and Evaluate Progress**

How will the Funding Work?

- Federal allocation of \$1.4 billion nationally, by formula per state
- Potential for additional funds from BEAD after broadband priorities are met
- NOFO will define the funding process (e.g., rfp vs. application)

Ways to Improve NH's Plan and its Impacts

- Statewide [Digital Equity Survey](#)
- Statewide [Asset Inventory](#)
- Help form/participate in your area's regional coalition

Comments, Questions or Concerns?





For more information, go to
nhdigitalequity.org

Or contact:
Bob McLaughlin
rmclaughlin@digitalequity.us

Charlie French
Charlie.french@unh.edu

