

Digital Equity Updates and News

Stay current on what's happening in digital equity in Baltimore City — from programs and initiatives to events. This is the latest information from BCIT's Broadband and Digital Equity Office.

Program Highlights

Digital Equity Fund

The City of Baltimore awarded a total of \$990,564 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to 22 nonprofits to support their digital equity and inclusion efforts. These organizations were selected due to their creative and scalable approaches to addressing digital equity gaps impacting Baltimore City's most vulnerable populations, such as older adults, residents living with disabilities, residents experiencing housing instability and homelessness, residents with limited English proficiency, and residents living in low-income households.



Mayor Scott gave remarks at the Digital Equity Fund Award Ceremony, September 8, 2023. To view the list of grantees and their funding amounts, [visit baltimorecity.gov](https://www.baltimorecity.gov).

Digital Equity Framework and Strategy

BDE held a series of community conversations with small focus groups of community residents. The input received will inform the City's Digital Equity Strategy to be released October 2023. Sixty residents participated in virtual and in-person facilitated sessions.

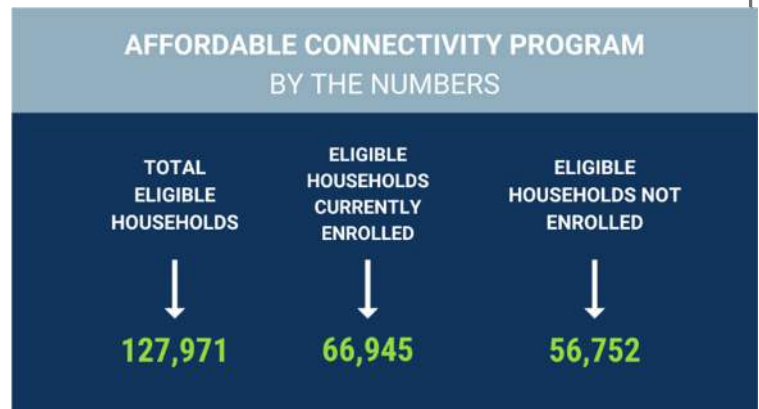
- Older Adults - Tuesday, September 5, 2023
- Racial and Ethnic Communities - Wednesday, September 6, 2023
- People Experiencing Homelessness - Saturday, September 9, 2023
- People Living with Disabilities - Tuesday, September 12, 2023
- Service Partners - Thursday, September 14, 2023

Digital Equity Updates and News

Initiative Highlights

Bmore Connected Campaign/Affordable Connectivity Program

The Bmore Connected campaign officially launched May 2023, to promote awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides eligible households \$30/month toward home internet service. The campaign is supported by more than 20 community partners and Baltimore City agencies. Radio spots promoting the Affordable Connectivity Program began September 5 on 92Q and Magic 95.9. BCE will market the program through MTA bus and metro ads, which will begin the week of September 18. Billboards will begin appearing throughout Baltimore City after the October 4 BOE meeting.



Figures are based on June 2023 enrollment data captured by EducationSuperHighway.

Tech Hubs are coming to Baltimore City!

The Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology is partnering with the Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP), Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), and Enoch Pratt Free Library (Pratt) to create Tech Hubs in recreation centers and senior centers. This is a multiphase project. Phase 1: rec centers and senior centers will be Outdoor Wi-Fi installations will begin October 1, 2023, and completed by June 30, 2024. Prior to deploying outdoor wi-fi, BCIT will host an end-user testing session with community leaders at the Middle Branch Recreation Center on September 27th.

Recent Events

Digital Equity Resource Fair

October 2, 2023, 4 – 7 p.m., Enoch Pratt Free Library – Southeast Anchor Branch

Mayor Scott was joined by Jake Day, Secretary of Maryland’s Department of Housing and Community Development to kick off Digital Inclusion Week (October 2 – 6). BCIT’s Broadband and Digital Equity Team organized the Digital Equity Resource Fair in partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library. This was an opportunity for Baltimore City income-eligible households get equipped with the tools and resources needed to participate in a digital world. The event also featured:

- **FREE Chromebooks (By Appointment Only)**

Baltimore City residents can find out if their household is [eligible to receive a free Chromebook](#) then make an appointment to pick it up the day of the event or at a later date.

- **Helpful Resources**

Residents can engage with our community partners for information on low-cost home internet assistance, digital skills training opportunities, device repair, technical assistance, and much more.

Digital Equity Updates and News

Limited food and beverages will be provided on site.