Washington State
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Digital Equity

Highlights + Transition

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Digital Equity Forum

Accomplishments since April 2024

- ✓ Increased DEF meeting attendance from 19 to 96-130 per meeting
- ✓ Charter approved
- ✓ Framework & calendar for proposed recommendations to legislature developed
- ✓ DEF and workgroup co-chairs appointed (spring 2024 and 2025)
- ✓ DEF Member application process created
- ✓ Onboarded 8 new DEF members + 15 alternates
- ✓ DEF whole group meeting cadence defined
- ✓ Workgroups established and meeting cadence defined
- ✓ Co-chair & workgroup co-chairs meeting cadence defined
- ✓ DEF yearly calendar established
- ✓ DEF member alternates identified
- ✓ Established period for public comment at each meeting
- ✓ Clear, consistent, and ongoing communication and updates for DEF members and public
- ✓ 1:1 member meetings held

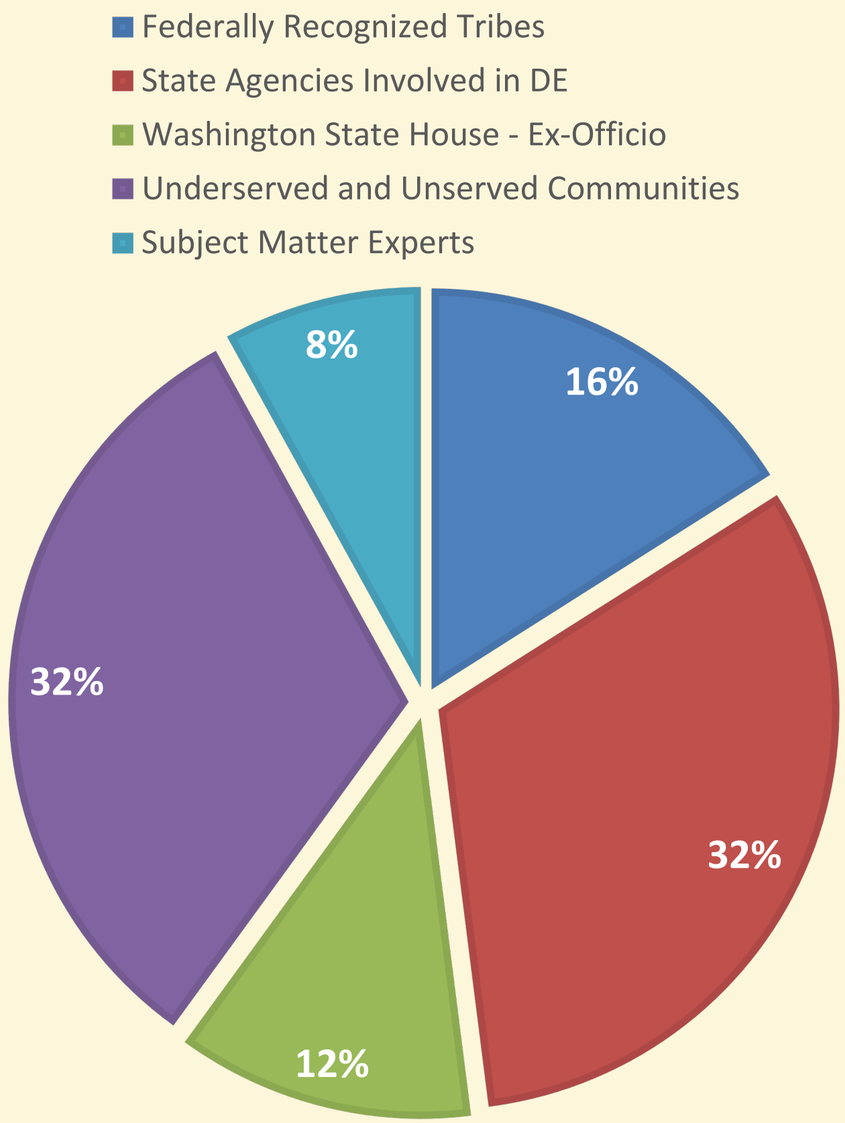
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DEF Membership

RCW 43.330.5395: *Appointee Priorities for the Digital Equity Forum*

Directors must prioritize appointees representing:

- **Federally Recognized Tribes**
- **State Agencies** involved in digital equity
- **Underserved and Unserved Communities**, including historically disadvantaged communities



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DEF Transition back to Washington State Broadband Office

Office of Equity Recommendations	Washington State Broadband Action
Attend and staff DEF workgroup meetings by July 1	Commitment confirmed to begin July 1
Coordinate early for Oct 28 legislative report	Internal planning and coordination initiated
Launch DEF website by July 1	Website in development, on track for launch
Maintain meeting cadence with DEF & co-chairs	Invites sent for full group and planning meetings
Join June 3 DEF meeting for visibility	Presented DEF transition plan; COMM leadership observed

Office of Equity Responsibilities (until June 30, 2025):

1. Onboard new members and follow up on member info
2. Support workgroup and co-chair planning meetings
3. Host May & June DEF meetings
4. Transfer all DEF materials to WSBO
5. Distribute meeting materials and updates
6. Maintain DEF listserv and community outreach
7. Assist and support transitions of DEF back to WSBO

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Office of Equity Support of DEF After June 30th, 2025

1. Approval of Digital Equity Forum Membership

2. Approval of Digital Equity Forum Agendas

Digital Equity Forum Workgroups

1. Public Private Policy Workgroup
2. Interagency Collaboration Workgroup
3. Data & Measurement Workgroup
4. Broadband & Accessibility Workgroup



Preview of Digital Equity Forum Legislative Recommendations

Barrier: Bureaucratic Silos and Fragmented Structures.

Recommendation: Launch a WA State Digital Equity inter-departmental team. This team would receive dedicated funding, be endowed with the necessary authority, and be responsible for aligning state programs—including regional and local initiatives—to ensure that digital inclusion is embedded as a core metric across related policies (from education and healthcare to economic development).

Barrier: In regard to public private partnerships, there is a lack of reliable, disaggregated, or up-to-date data—especially for tribal lands, rural areas, and marginalized populations.

Recommendation: Ensure we are using data to drive strategic recommendations that can be achieved through existing or emerging best-practices to ensure practical impact improving access to technology and improved broadband accessibility, especially to those who are at-risk or historically under-served like tribes and rural communities.

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Digital Equity Outreach

Led by: Office of Equity's Communications & Tribal Liaison Team

Purpose: Gather community input to shape the 2025 DEF Legislative Report

Approach:

- Co-created a needs assessment with DEF workgroup co-chairs
- Developed and distributed a community-facing survey
- Centered DEF workgroup needs to ensure a community-informed report.

Key Activities:

- Tribal government-to-government meetings
- In-person engagement in rural & underserved areas
- Collaboration with trusted messengers & local leaders
- Designed Outreach materials
- Captured insights & ensured accessibility

Led by: Office of Equity's Communications & Innovation and Performance Team

Purpose: Engage hard-to-reach communities with information about federal and local support programs.

Approach:

- Strengthened connections with trusted community messengers
- Engaged new and existing local coalitions focused on building with hard-to-reach communities

Key Activities:

- Co-created 9 virtual sessions with 260+ participants from all 39 counties and 40+ community presentations
- Co-created a social media toolkit to support future local outreach
- Conducted outreach to raise awareness of the Digital Equity Forum

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Questions?