If people don’t know how to use technology, or cannot tap its value for their most basic needs, our efforts to connect them are fruitless.

For economic development, job growth, educational opportunities, disability access, telehealth, and so much more, we need training and equipped digital citizens. And while billions are designated to broadband adoption and affordability, there is little funding devoted to digital equity and adoption projects in the U.S.

The logical solution is to designate some of the proceeds of spectrum auctions to tackle this problem.

Ask Congress to designate a substantial portion of future spectrum auction proceeds to endow a Digital Equity Foundation.

FOUNDED BY

ALA American Library Association
NDIA National District Internet Alliance
Center for Rural Strategies
Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
CR Consumer Reports
common sense
Open Technology Institute
Public Knowledge
SHLB Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition
THE VEHICLE:
A DIGITAL EQUITY FOUNDATION

Meeting the Need

Digital Literacy & Adoption: Digital Navigator Programs, library and community technology centers; outreach and assistance to expand enrollments in ACP, Lifeline and other programs

Public Purpose Apps, Training & Evaluation: Education tech, telehealth and public health, disability access, online benefit access, and efforts to close the K-12 homework gap

Why a Foundation?

☑ Sustainability: ongoing support to address emerging needs
☑ Expertise: advisory group representing diverse stakeholders
☑ Innovation: innovative tools, prototypes, pilots and partnerships
☑ Governance & Accountability: transparent reporting to Congress

THE TIME IS NOW

Senate and House Commerce Committees leaders from both parties have embraced the concept of dedicating auction proceeds to help close the digital divide in other recent auction legislation.

The FCC's auction authority must be extended this year. When Congress last did this (2012), it set aside $7.5B in future auction revenue to fund FirstNet, the interoperable public safety network.

This is the opportunity to overcome digital equity and adoption challenges by leveraging a natural resource owned by the American people: the spectrum around us.

Learn more at www.airwavesforequity.org