



ADVANCING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES IN MARYLAND



33%

of Marylanders do not have a computer

198,858 MARYLANDERS

Do not have broadband and are not able to fully benefit from the economic, educational, social, health, and civic engagement opportunities that the Internet provides



18%

of Marylanders do not use the Internet

(MARYLAND STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN)

THOSE MOST LIKELY TO LACK BROADBAND ACCESS:



- Veterans
- Rural Residents
- Aging Individuals
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Racial & Ethnic Minorities
- Low-Income Households



92%

of jobs require digital skills

MARYLAND'S AFFORDABILITY GAP

In 2023: 133K Chromebooks were distributed. 288K Marylanders signed up for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The state's Emergency Broadband Benefit (MEBB) program reaches 33% of eligible households by July 2023. 54% of households still lack a digital device.

In 2024: ACP sunsets & MEBB ends. Maryland's Connected Devices Program ends. 287,772 Marylanders lose ACP and broadband subsidies.



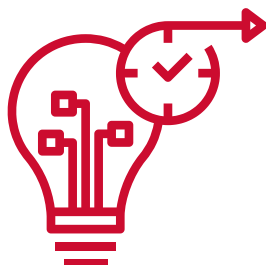
On average, a worker will earn

23%

more at a job that requires one digital skill

(NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION)

PLANNING FOR MARYLAND'S DIGITAL FUTURE



Statewide Broadband Infrastructure



Affordable Statewide Broadband Access



Community Tech Refurbishment Centers



Statewide Resource Mapping & Sharing



Community Capacity Building



Digital Skill Classes & Workforce Development



Sustained Funding & Legislative Policies

HIGHLIGHTING MARYLAND'S DIGITAL INCLUSION EFFORTS



Garrett County

- 1,527 Chromebooks distributed
- Grant funding on track to connect 2,500 homes to fiber broadband
- Awarded Connect Humanity grant to develop a Digital Opportunity Plan

Baltimore County

- Awarded \$26M+ in grant funding to support broadband
- 13,600 Chromebooks distributed
- Named a 2024 Visionary Trailblazer by NDIA

Baltimore City

- 50K devices distributed
- Named a 2024 Visionary Trailblazer by NDIA
- 30 local organizations awarded \$3M in Digital Equity Funds to close the digital divide

Carroll County

- 79% of addresses have access to reliable internet
- 4,000 addresses are scheduled or under construction

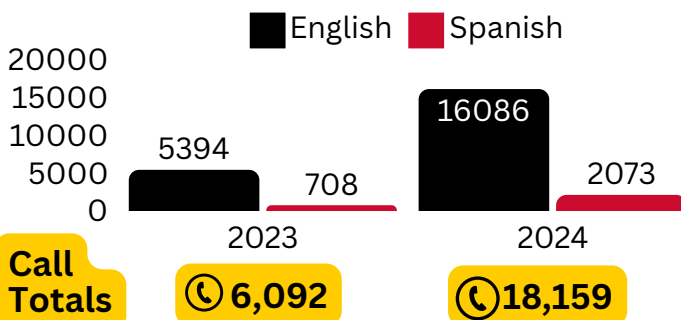
Montgomery County

- Reached nearly 29K residents through Senior Planet programs
- Distributed 117K laptops
- MoCo broadband expanded to 6 affordable housing developments

Southern Maryland

- St. Mary's County recognized as the #1 Digital County for its size
- Charles County distributed 5,000 Chromebook devices and has connected 98% of addresses to broadband

UME Marylanders Online Statewide Tech Support Helpline Calls



Learn more: <https://go.umd.edu/TechSupport>



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the [Maryland Digital Equity Coalition \(MDEC\)](#). To subscribe to the MDEC mailing list, visit go.umd.edu/JoinMDEC.