



Orange County Digital Inclusion Plan

Goals & Strategies

Goal 1: Upgrade affordable broadband options throughout the community.

Strategy 1a) identify or develop discounted internet service plans in partnership with internet providers, schools, and other key stakeholders.

Strategy 1b) design and implement an awareness campaign of discounted service plans, once established, as well as efforts to increase adoption among community residents, businesses, and organizations.

Goal 2: Ensure community members have access to quality and reliable devices.

Strategy 2a) identify businesses and organizations in the community that may be willing to donate devices including desktops, laptops, and tablets.

Strategy 2b) work with local schools, churches, civic programs, or other nonprofits to launch a tech savvy volunteer corps made up of students and adults that can 1) reformat donated devices; 2) provide technical assistance to recipients; 3) and/or provide digital literacy workshops.

Goal 3: Improve digital literacy and skills among all residents.

Strategy 3a) inventory community anchor institutions and other relevant organizations (e.g., libraries, churches, WorkOne, Purdue Extension, etc.) with access to fast internet and devices that are better positioned to host digital literacy workshops and/or provide public access to devices and internet.

Strategy 3b) inventory existing workshops and classes to identify gaps and niches to be filled including but not limited to efforts conducted by schools, nonprofits, community colleges, local economic development organizations, Purdue Extension, WorkOne, etc.

Strategy 3c) once locations suitable to hosting digital literacy workshops and existing efforts are identified, jointly develop a schedule to offer frequent and convenient workshops for free or at a discounted rate targeting multiple groups and ages in the community.

Goal 4: Integrate digital inclusion strategies into community, economic, and workforce development.

Strategy 4a) the local economic development organization will survey existing businesses to identify their information technology and workforce needs. This information will be utilized to inform the effort outlined in Strategy 3c.

Strategy 4b) identify facilities in the community that could potentially be transformed into business incubators, co-working spaces, telework nesting, and/or tech hubs.

Strategy 4c) explore incentive options to a) subsidize home internet subscriptions for remote workers; b) provide a nesting and/or co-working facility to remote workers (see Strategy 4b); c) make it easy for businesses to allow and/or hire remote workers; d) potentially subsidize outside employers to hire resident as remote workers.

Strategy 4d) assess the community's online presence and reputation; develop and implement a digital engagement plan to a) improve online presence; b) proactively manage community's online reputation; c) and leverage digital platforms to increase civic engagement, trust, and responsiveness. Work closely with the local convention & visitors bureau to align online presence.

Strategy 4e) survey manufacturers and other businesses to better understand the barriers or workforce needs around the adoption of artificial intelligence. Develop tools and resources to help organizations adopt and benefit from artificial intelligence.

Strategy 4f) research and provide available resources to farmers to adopt digital strategies (e.g., precision agriculture) and encourage and support farm-to-table programs.

Goal 5: Strive to establish and sustain a digital equity ecosystem (Note: digital equity ecosystems are defined as the interactions between individuals, populations, and their larger socioeconomic and technical environments that play a role in shaping digital inclusion work).

Strategy 5a) expand the digital advisory team into a broader coalition of digital inclusion stakeholders in the community. This coalition can monitor implementation of the plan and review progress twice per year, coordinate networking around digital inclusion, and serve as a liaison to additional community coalitions.

Strategy 5b) constantly update and maintain inventory of a) facilities conducive to digital literacy workshops; b) businesses and organizations donating devices; c) existing digital literacy workshops and topics available.

Strategy 5c) formalize tech savvy volunteer corps by establishing a recruiting, management, and mentorship system as well as providing continuous funding.

Strategy 5d) gather more timely and detailed information regarding internet access, availability, cost, and utilization. This data should continue to inform the implementation of the plan and monitor progress in reducing digital exclusion in the community.

Strategy 5e) ensure that digital inclusion is a community and economic development priority in addition to a social justice issue.