



The Doers: Less Talk, More Action on Closing the Digital Divide

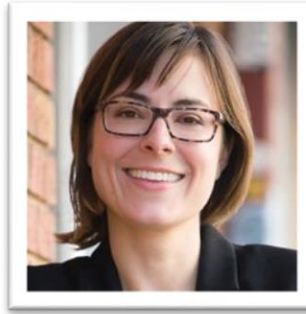


Broadband Communities 2021 • SUMMIT



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The logo for Rural LISC, with 'RURAL' in blue and 'LISC' in black, set against a background of a vast, green mountain range under a cloudy sky.

RURAL LISC

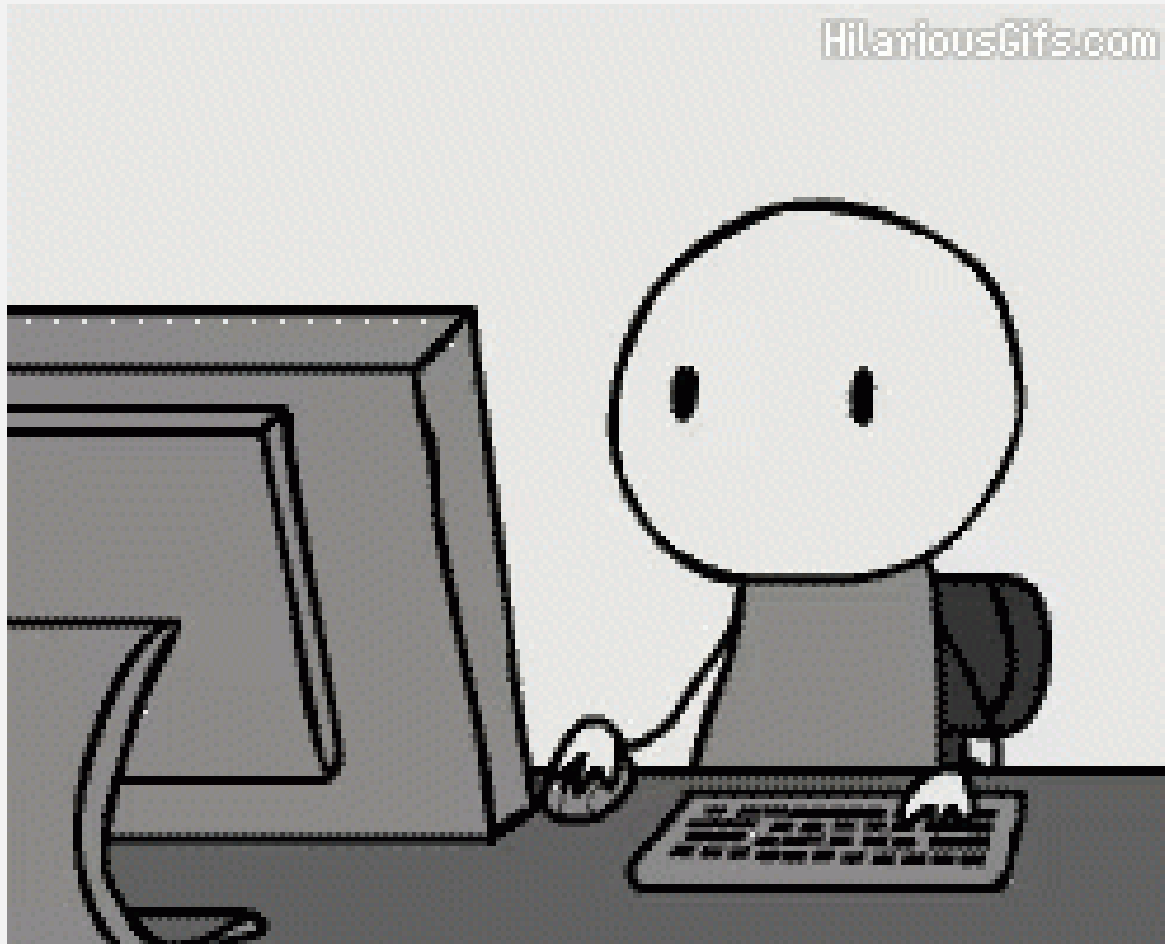
The Doers: Less Talk, More Action on Closing the Digital Divide

Broadband Communities Summit
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HilariousGifs.com



Theory of Change: Digital Equity is Economic Mobility

The shift to socially-distanced/virtual work, education, and service delivery in the COVID era means equitable digital access and digital skills are more essential than ever to economic opportunity.

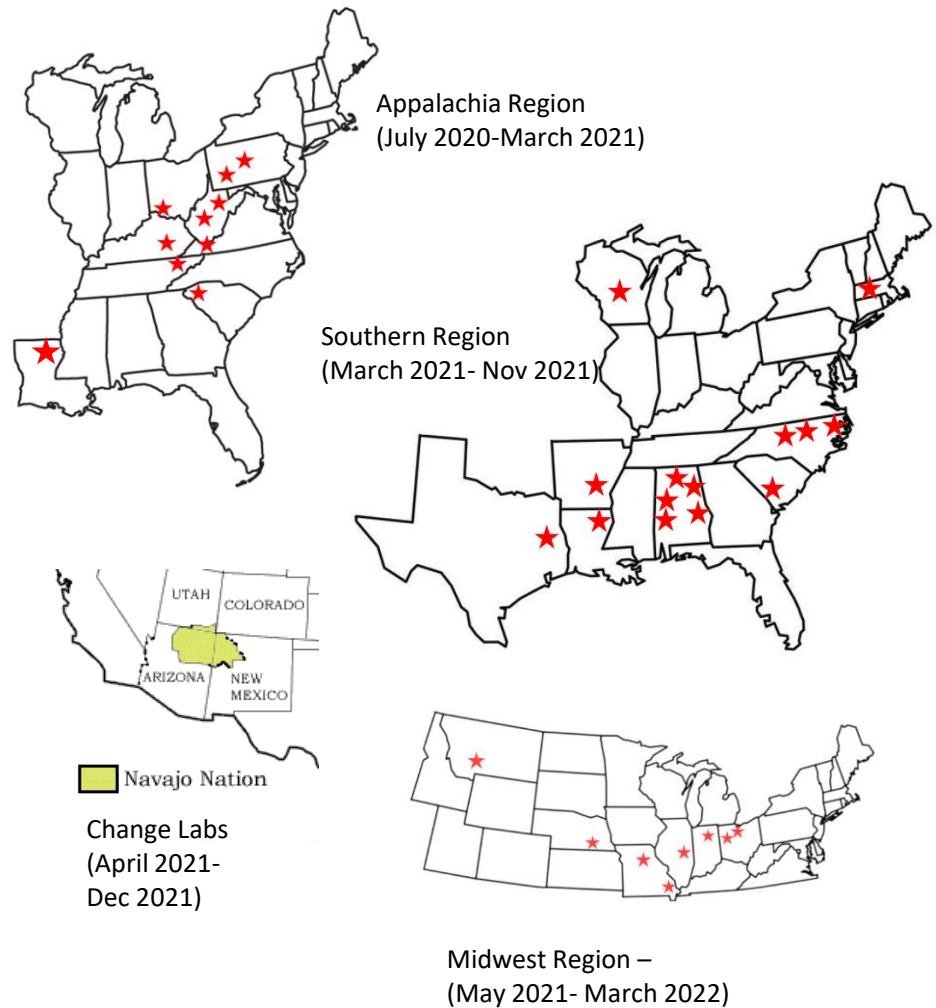
How We Work

- [Train Digital Navigators](#) to help people gain and sustain tech literacy and access low-cost connectivity and devices that support their goal
- [Emergency cash grants](#) to purchase appropriate devices and/or subsidize a home-internet connection
- [Guide for CDFI loan officers and affordable housing developers](#) on integrating appropriate digital technology design criteria into a project budget and building design
- [Support multi-jurisdictional broadband planning/capacity building, including on Native lands](#), to aid rural broadband expansion in and identify a clear path to digital equity outcomes and funding

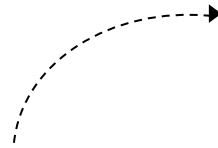
Digital Navigator Program

Cross-trained case managers enhance client services by integrating digital literacy and skills to improve other outcomes (employment, financial, education, health)

Digital Navigators form a community of practice to exchange ideas and approaches



Impact to Date



32 Digital Navigators partner locations trained in 20 states

700+ devices distributed

300+ affordable internet connections secured

Rural broadband access increased thru LISC grants

Demonstrating digital inclusion essential to social safety net

Promoting a model getting attention from practitioners and policy advocates

Supporting sustainable rural economies



Digital Equity Stories: Profiles in Courage

RURAL LISC