

MAKING SURE THAT ALL MAINERS HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE BROADBAND

National Digital Equity Center to offer free tablets to Maine residents

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A Maine resident uses a Tablet to connect with friends and family. (Photo courtesy National Digital Equity Center)

MACHIAS — The National Digital Equity Center will now be able to offer free tablets to eligible Maine residents thanks to support from the Maine Office of Community Development, a program of the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development. These tablets will allow users to connect to the internet and other resources, helping to close the digital divide experienced by many Mainers across the state.

“The announcement of this funding is another important step in making sure that all Mainers have access to affordable broadband,” said Heather Johnson, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, in a news release. “While the lack of infrastructure is one barrier to broadband accessibility, affordability and digital literacy continues to be a challenge for many Mainers. We are pleased to partner with the National Digital Equity Center on this critically important project. We know it will begin to bridge the divide for many Maine people around affordability, devices and connections.”

The provided tablets will be free for one year and include one-on-one tutoring to help users of any skill level get started and connect to the internet. To learn more about the free tablet program and check your eligibility, call (207) 259-5010, email tabletrequest@digitalequitycenter.org, or visit <https://digitalequitycenter.org/request-device/>.

In addition to tutoring and tablets, free interactive online classes are available for anyone looking to learn more about using devices and online tools for home, school, and work. Topics include devices, internet safety, and using Google-based tools, alongside software-focused classes covering topics like WordPress and Microsoft Word and Excel. All classes are free to Maine residents, but registration is required. To view a complete list of classes and to sign up, visit www.digitalequitycenter.org/classes.