



UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

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## Guam's Digital Equity Plan Receives NTIA Approval, Paving the Way for Increased Funding and Connectivity

Hagåtña, Guam—The Office of the Governor is pleased to announce that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), part of the US Department of Commerce, has officially approved Guam's Digital Equity (DE) Plan. This significant milestone not only validates the island's commitment to bridging the digital divide but also unlocks substantial funding opportunities to enhance digital inclusion across the territory.

With this approval, Guam is now eligible to apply for the Digital Equity *Capacity* grant funding, which includes a dedicated allocation of \$2.1 million. Additionally, Guam is set to receive two supplementary awards of \$750,000 each, further bolstering its efforts to expand digital access and literacy.

The plan specifically targets eight covered populations that are most affected by the digital divide: low-income households, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier (including those with limited English proficiency), racial and ethnic minorities, and rural inhabitants.

"This approval from the NTIA is a significant step forward for Guam," said Acting Governor Joshua Tenorio. "Our Digital Equity Plan is designed to address the unique challenges faced by our community in accessing digital resources. Many of our residents still don't have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet access. Even more people either can't afford it or lack the necessary skills to use it. The gap between those with internet access and those without is significant. With the financial support now available, we are poised to make significant strides in ensuring that all residents have the tools and opportunities they need to thrive in a digital world."

The Digital Equity Plan outlines a comprehensive strategy to enhance internet connectivity, provide digital literacy training, and ensure that all Guam residents have access to the digital tools necessary for education, healthcare, employment, and civic engagement. This plan aligns with the broader goals of the NTIA to promote digital equity across the nation.

Several key programs and initiatives will be piloted for eventual islandwide launch as part of this effort, including:

- **Community Wi-Fi Projects:** Utilizing the island's community anchor institutions (CAI) as free Wi-Fi hotspots, offering access to the internet in public spaces such as community centers and schools to ensure everyone can get online.

- **Digital Literacy Workshops:** Offering training sessions to improve digital skills among seniors, veterans, and other covered populations.
- **Device Access Programs:** Providing access to devices for low-income households and individuals with disabilities to ensure they have the necessary tools to participate in the digital world.
- **Online Safety Campaigns:** Educating all residents, especially the aging population and those with limited digital experience, on how to stay safe online.

Acting Governor Tenorio added, “This funding will help us build a more inclusive digital future for all Guam families. Achieving economic equity requires everyone to have access to dependable and affordable high-speed internet. We are committed to leveraging these resources to close the digital divide and create opportunities for every resident to participate fully in the digital economy.”

Additionally, Guam is also eligible to compete for Digital Equity *Competitive* grant funding when the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released later this year. These funds will be instrumental in supporting projects that promote digital equity and ensure that all residents, regardless of location or circumstance, have access to affordable and reliable internet services.

As Guam moves forward with its Digital Equity Plan, the Guam Broadband Office will continue to engage with community stakeholders, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and others to implement initiatives that address digital disparities and foster a more connected and equitable society.

For more information about Guam's Digital Equity Plan and upcoming initiatives, please visit [Broadband.Guam.Gov](http://Broadband.Guam.Gov) or contact [broadband@guam.gov](mailto:broadband@guam.gov).

#### About the Guam Broadband Office

The Guam Broadband Office is dedicated to fostering digital equity and enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Guam. Through various programs and initiatives, the Office works to create a thriving, inclusive, and connected community.

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