

# LET'S #CONNECTSTL TOGETHER

## *Digital Equity & Inclusion*

The City of St. Louis and St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC) are taking bold steps to close the digital divide and achieve digital equity in St. Louis — but we can't do it alone. To encourage collaboration and cooperation with technology-driven businesses and community stakeholders, in 2023, we formed a Digital Equity & Inclusion Coalition called ConnectSTL.

### ConnectSTL PURPOSE

To establish a digitally inclusive community where every resident enjoys equal access to opportunities, resources, and the transformative power of technology. As a coalition, our aim is to focus on unity and collaboration and together we strive to dismantle digital barriers, cultivate robust collaborations, and narrow the digital divide. We seek to establish a sustainable model that encourages participation, inclusivity, and continuous improvement.

### ConnectSTL PROMISE

To ensure every St. Louisan has the digital opportunities and resources to succeed, the ConnectSTL coalition will emphasize a collaborative approach based on the Collective Impact model. We aim to foster regional collaboration while still encouraging individual participation. By working on a shared agenda to expand digital access, we serve as a catalyst for meaningful change.

### ConnectSTL PRINCIPLES



Inclusive Language and Representation



Human-Centered Approach



Community Engagement and Input



Partnership and Collaboration



Clear and Defined Goals



Agility and Continuous Improvement



Broadband Accessibility for All



Data for Action and Impact



## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

SLDC has dedicated \$5 million of its ARPA allocation toward Digital Equity in the City of St. Louis. This investment builds on our existing strategies focused on equity, economic development and economic justice. Investing in digital literacy and technology training programs to enable participation in the 21st-century economy and helping to bridge the digital divide is a core initiative of the Economic Empowerment pillar of the Economic Justice Action Plan.

The St. Louis Digital Inclusion Action Plan, which outlines strategic priorities and actions that the city can undertake to improve equitable access to high-speed internet and digital skills needed to succeed in today's modern society, guides these efforts.

## DIGITAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

The vision for the Digital Inclusion Action Plan is to remove the barriers to internet access so that every resident in St. Louis has the opportunity to learn, work and thrive. The Digital Inclusion Action Plan focuses on three goals to achieve its vision:

1. Empower City government, business and community stakeholders to collaborate in closing the digital divide.
2. Improve equitable access to affordable high-speed internet and connected devices.
3. Enable residents to experience the long-term benefits of technology.



The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) named the City of St. Louis as a 2024 Visionary Digital Inclusion Trailblazer.

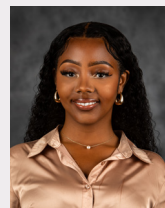
Visionary Trailblazers are communities that have deeply integrated digital inclusion throughout their government.



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