Digital Durham
Digital Equity Plan

Durham City Council
August 5, 2021

Bridge the digital divide for all people in the city and county of Durham
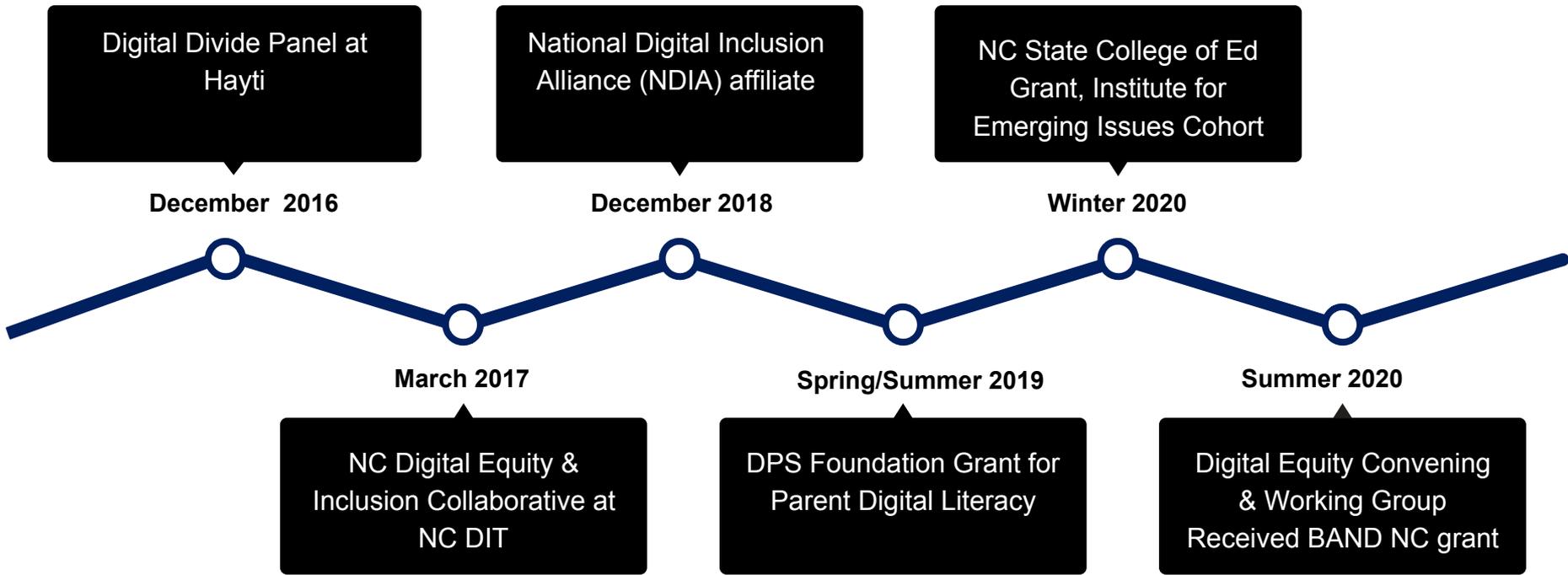
Digital Durham's Members

Digital Divide Panel at Hayti

National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) affiliate

NC State College of Ed Grant, Institute for Emerging Issues Cohort

December 2016

December 2018

Winter 2020

March 2017

Spring/Summer 2019

Summer 2020

NC Digital Equity & Inclusion Collaborative at NC DIT

DPS Foundation Grant for Parent Digital Literacy

Digital Equity Convening & Working Group Received BAND NC grant

Digital Durham Timeline

Digital Equity is...

a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for **full participation** in our society, democracy and economy**.**
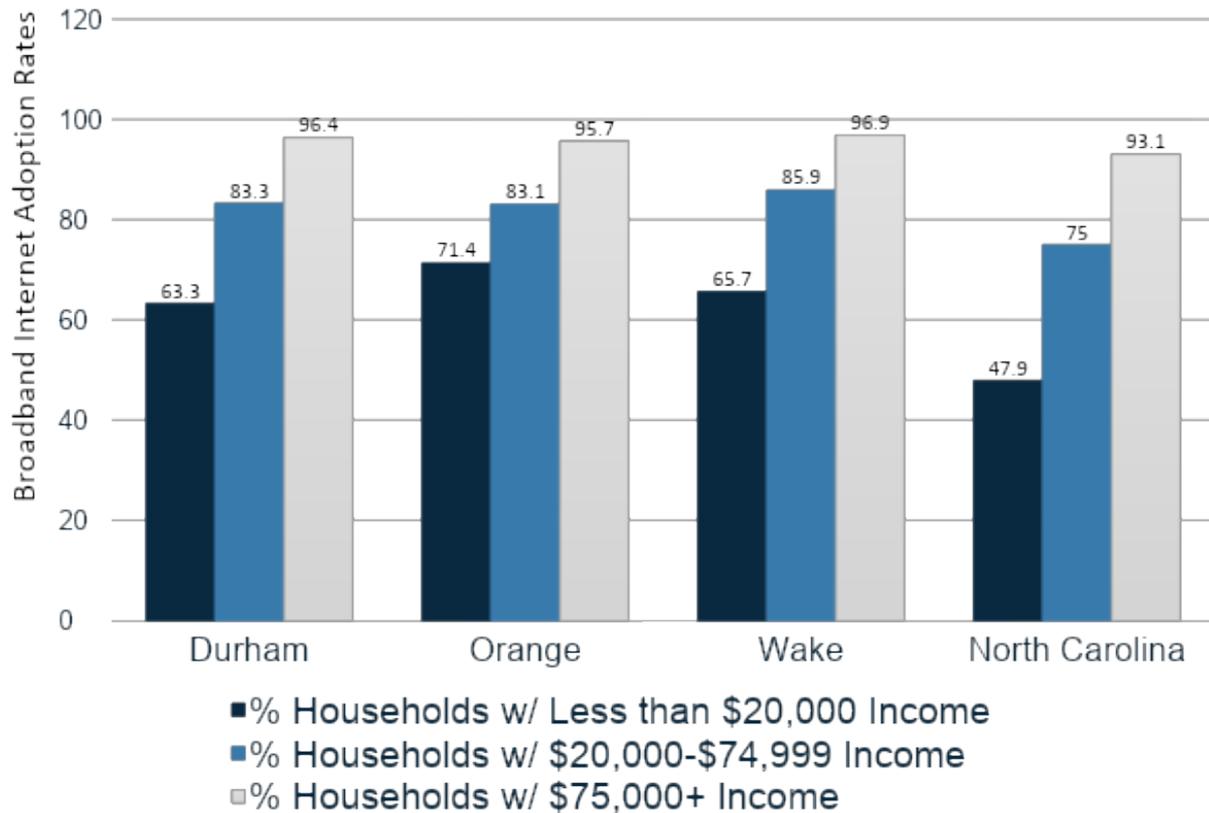
Digital Equity is **necessary for** civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.

- National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Digital Equity = Educational Opportunity

"Even during normal teaching conditions, students **without high-speed Internet access at home** have **lower grades**, lower digital skills and are **less likely to plan to attend a college or university**."
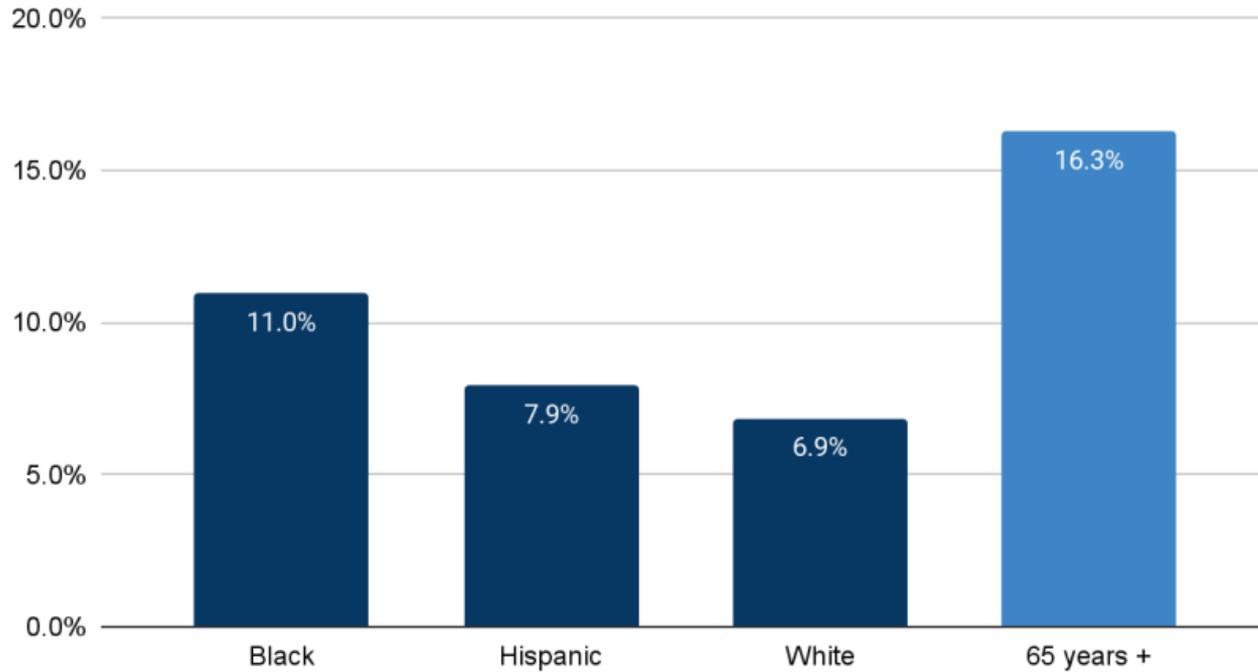
- Quello Center

Digital Equity = Educational Opportunity

Digital Equity = Equitable Economic Growth

People **without digital skills** are more likely to be **unemployed or make less money**. - OECD

No Computer w/ Internet Connection

2019 ACS Survey 1 Year Estimate - Durham County

Digital Equity = Equitable Economic Growth

Digital Equity's Impact

"...accelerate the critical work of bringing all North Carolinians up to speed with the digital society so they can live more equitable, prosperous, educated and healthier lives."

Governor Cooper

What are our neighbors (and the state) doing?

Winston Salem & Forsyth County

- Contracted with consultant to develop a digital equity plan - 4/2021

Raleigh

- City staff coordinating a digital inclusion program since 2017
- Recognized as Digital Inclusion Trailblazer - 7/2019

Charlotte

- Digital equity plan published - 2017
- Recognized as Digital Inclusion Trailblazer - 7/2019

State of North Carolina

- Established Office of Digital Equity - 7/2021
- Digital Inclusion Plan template - 3/2021

I. Expand **Broadband access** and **adoption**

- Increase the areas that have Broadband connectivity

- Increase adoption of Broadband through outreach

- Advocate for policies that will increase Broadband infrastructure, access, and adoption

II. Increase the number of people who have a **device** that allows them to participate fully online

- Increase the community's opportunity for free or low-cost devices

- Expand device ownership in the community

- Provide support for computer devices

III. Increase **digital knowledge and skills** among all groups in the community to encourage lifelong learning

- Increase access to digital learning opportunities

- Provide ongoing support and infrastructure for digital learning

- Develop an adaptive framework for digital skills and literacy continuum

IV. Implement and assess the outcomes of the Digital Equity Plan

- Implement operational structures for the plan

- Develop assessment mechanisms for the plan

- Promote collaborations and accomplishments

- Secure funding for implementing the plan

Next Steps

Resolution to Endorse the Plan

ARPA Funding Proposal

Detailed Implementation Plan

Resources

- Broadband and Student Performance Gaps, Quello Center Policy Brief 01-20, https://doi.org/10.25335/BZGY-3V91

- Does Having Digital Skills Really Pay Off, OECD

- 2019 1 Yr Estimate Subject Table Internet Subscriptions for Durham County, American Community Survey
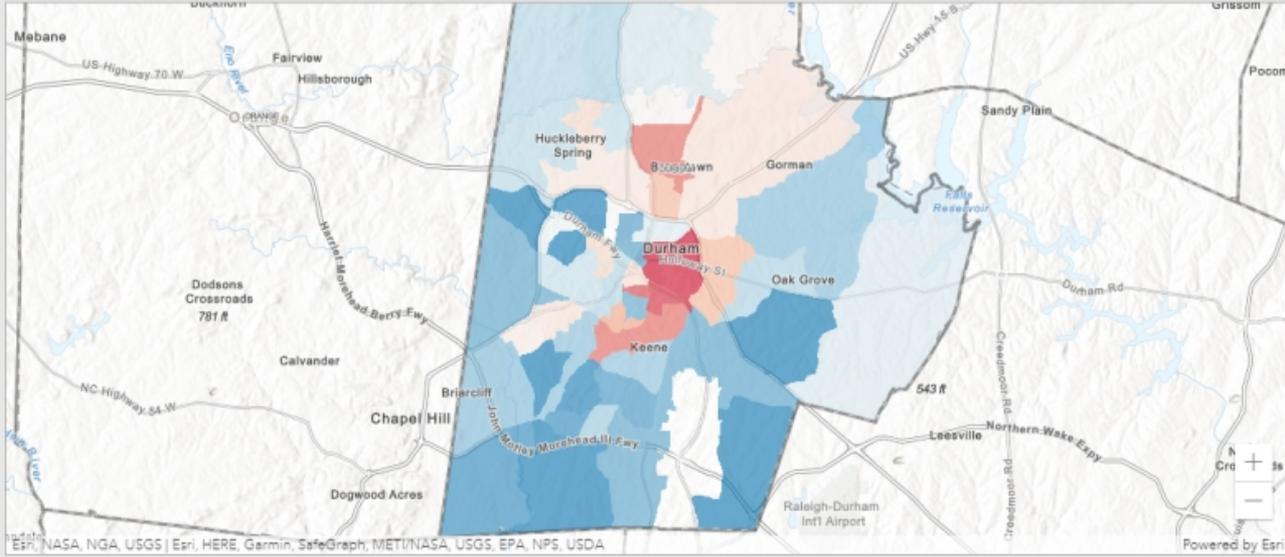
NC Broadband Adoption Index

2017 | 2018 | **2019**

County: Durham ✕ ▾

% Broadband Subscription

1.13%

% Population Ages 18-34

40% 60%
20% 80%
0% 100%
29.51%

% Population with Bachelor's Degree or more

6.56%

% Households with Children

40% 60%
20% 80%
0% 100%
27.75%

% Population Ages 65 and over

12.36%

% Households with No Internet Access

11.79%

% Households No Computer Devices:

40% 60%
20% 80%
0% 100%
8.71%

% Poverty

7.41%

% Population with Disability

40% 60%
20% 80%
0% 100%
10.13%

% Limited English

4.94%

NC Broadband Adoption Index by Census Tract

Adoption Score

< > 75

< 50

Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA

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Adoption Index

- 2017
- 2018
- 2019