

# **Digital Equity and Privacy**

Current Efforts in State of Washington

May 23, 2024

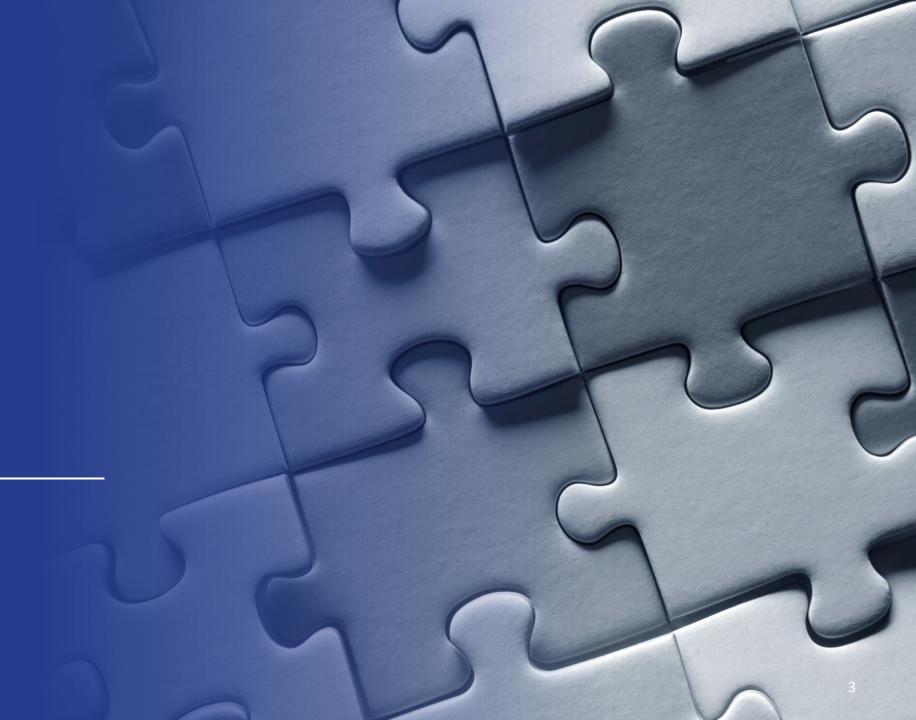


# Introduce Tavares J. Terry



# WaTech

Diversity
Equity
Access and
Inclusion



# Advancing Equity in Government

# From Executive Order (EO) 13985:

"Advancing equity requires a systematic approach to embedding fairness in decision-making processes, executive departments...

...agencies must recognize and work to redress inequities in their policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity."



## **Federal Efforts**

- Digital Equity Act
- Federal funding to ensure that individuals and communities have the skills and tools needed for full participation in society and the economy.

- Individuals with disabilities.
- Individuals with a language barriers.
- Individuals who are English learners.
- Individual with low level of literacy.
- Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group.
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area.



### **Executive Order 22-02**

"Achieving Equity in Washington State Government"

#### **Executive Order 22-04**

"Implementing Washington State PEAR Plan and Playbook"

The goal of these directives is to create a starting point for a shared foundation of critical knowledge and to promote DEAI in the administration of policies, practices, and procedures.

#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-02**

#### ACHIEVING EQUITY IN WASHINGTON STATE GOVERNMENT



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-04** 

IMPLEMENTING THE WASHINGTON STATE PRO-EQUITY ANTI-RACISM (PEAR) PLAN & PLAYBOOK

# What Does Digital Equity Mean?

Everyone can fully participate in an increasingly, almost exclusively, digital society.

To achieve digital equity, everyone must have access to the infrastructure, technology, and skills that allow individuals to engage in economic, educational, health, social, and civic spaces digitally.





# **State Efforts**

- Washington's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).
- Digital Equity Plan.
- Digital Equity Forum/ Washington Digital Equity Partners and others.
- Connectivity.
- Digital Accessibility Community of Practice.
- Digital Literacy
- Workforce Development



# **Digital Navigation Program**

- Provides grant funding for consortiums to implement digital navigator services across WA State.
- Builds collaborative partnerships that will broaden the reach to deliver digital navigator services.
- Increases access to resources and tools supporting internet connectivity for individuals and households.
- Funding: \$14.7 million per year
   (Sept 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025)



# Digital Navigation Program

### Objectives

#### A. Digital Device Distribution -

Approach must include digital devices that will enhance an individual and/or household to connect to resources that will increase access to services through a digital platform.

#### B. Digital Educational Services -

Must support services for individuals to resource for real-time assistance with an option to leverage use of digital learning platforms to teach digital curriculum through in-person, webinar-based and at-your-own pace modalities.

# C. Sustainability of Digital Navigation Services - Identify effective policy and systematic strategies to address the long-term sustainability of digital navigator services that will provide employment opportunities, access to resources and services across WA State.

D. Increased Access - Innovative or proven approach to connect individuals to free Wi-Fi in communities where connectivity is not available due to the lack of infrastructure and geographical or economic challenges.

### **Outputs**

#### Increased:

- Digital Knowledge
- Employment
- Higher Education
- Technical/Skill Training
- DN Roles and Services

# Intersecting and Collaborative Consortium Activities:

- State and Local Partnerships
- Data Dashboard
- Health Access
- Digital Device Distribution
- In-person Support
- Digital and Phone Support

#### Equity

Increased number of individuals / household with digital connectivity.

#### **Success Stories:**

- Individual/Household
- Project





# Digital Equity and Generative Artificial Intelligence





MAKING AUTOMATED SYSTEMS WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



EXECUTIVE ORDER 24-01
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Safe and Effective
Systems



Algorithmic
Discrimination
Protections



**Data Privacy** 



Notice and Explanation



Human
Alternatives,
Consideration, and
Fallback



# Thank you! Questions?

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