

## Digital Access Newsletter

*February 2025*

Welcome to One Network – This newsletter is an overview of the digital opportunity services offered by organizations like Literacy Minnesota and resources for those wanting to know more about digit access.

The recent Technology Literacy Collaborative (TLC) meeting covered a lot within the world of digital literacy. This month's community bulletin will be covering a recap of the meeting so everyone can have access to the information and resources shared in the meeting. Within the article there are two surveys included. Fill them out to help Literacy MN with digital literacy research and Hennepin County with broadband and digital inclusion.

**Did you learn anything new from this local group?**

### **Covered within this issue:**

- **Community Bulletin**
  - Technology Literacy Collaborative (TLC) meeting recap
- **Literacy MN Digital Literacy Services**
- **Other Minnesota Initiatives**
- **Resources**



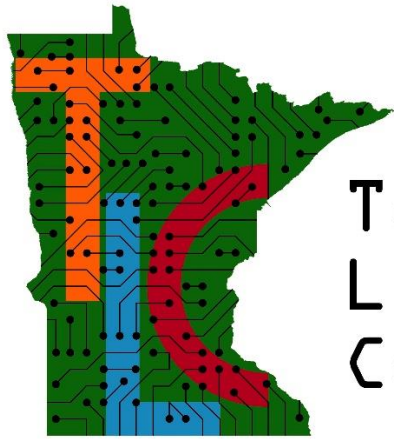
651-645-2277

<https://www.literacymn.org/>

700 Raymond Avenue Suite 180, Saint Paul, MN 55114

**Mission:** Literacy Minnesota connects people to transformative learning, sparks innovation in literacy and mobilizes change.

# Community Bulletin



## Technology Literacy Collaborative

The Technology Literacy Collaborative or TLC is a group of aspiring leaders in the digital equity field within the Twin Cities. They gather to problem solve and discuss best practices. Find the group on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14411564>. Email Katrina Benson from Neighborhood House at [kbenson.neighb@gmail.com](mailto:kbenson.neighb@gmail.com) to learn more.

### **February 2025 Meeting Recap**

The meeting was be hosted by Cynthia Child. Cynthia discussed her work as TECH Services Program Coordinator at Senior Community Services. Katrina Benson from Neighborhood House and Grayson Betz from Lyndale Neighborhood Association talked about the ELDES curriculum. Frances Bates from Literacy Minnesota went over some digital equity terminology. See meeting notes below for more info.

### **Senior Community Services**

<https://seniorcommunity.org/>

TECH: Technology, Education, and Connection Help

- This program is for assistance with home and tech.
- It is important to have a written explanation of technology as not everyone has the same understanding of technology and technology is constantly changing.
- Helpful links
  - <https://broadbandnow.com/>
  - <https://www.digitallearn.org/>

### **ELDES (English Learner Digital Essential Skills)**

<https://lyndale.org/eldes/>

- This is a basic curriculum to be a precursor to the Northstar program.
- For anyone who is an English learner and/or someone who hasn't interacted with technology.
- Neighborhood House will be offering classes using this curriculum.

### **New Initiative from Hennepin County**

“Hennepin County is launching a Broadband and Digital Inclusion (BDI) Partnerships Initiative – we’d like to invite you to be part of this important work by joining our new coalition.

Our goal is to ensure that all residents, regardless of income, location, or background have access to reliable internet and the digital resources they need to thrive. Expanding access to reliable, high-speed internet is essential for education, employment, healthcare, and overall quality of life. Through this coalition, we aim to share resources, align efforts, and drive policy and program solutions that expand broadband access, affordability, and digital opportunity throughout the state of Minnesota.

As we finalize plans for the coalition’s kickoff meeting, we request your input to shape the agenda, scheduling, and future engagement opportunities. Please take a few minutes to complete our brief survey by 3/5/25.

[https://hennepinco.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ewTSleJfSft0xKu](https://hennepinco.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ewTSleJfSft0xKu)

Please feel free to forward this invitation to other colleagues involved in expanding digital access for residents.

We look forward to your participation in this coalition and the positive change we can achieve in reducing the digital divide for Minnesota residents.”

-BDI Partnerships

### **Affordable Connectivity Program – New Info**

<https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Paying-for-Itself-How-the-Affordable-Connectivity-Program-Delivers-More-Than-It-Costs.pdf>

### **Digital Equity terminology**

- Examples are Digital Equity, Digital Literacy, Digital Access and Digital Opportunity Services.
- Our group currently uses digital equity in our description. With recent changes happening recently do we continue to use that?
- Research survey: <https://forms.gle/sbSPnjn8yBTKVZSw9>

### **Hennepin Healthcare**

They have now launched a Spanish version of MyChart.

### **Hubbs Center laptop refurbishing program**

<https://atlasabe.org/news/dont-throw-away-your-old-laptops-chromeos-flex-can-breathe-new-life-into-failing-devices/>

### **Next Meeting**

- Thinking the next one will be sometime in April with the potential topic being telehealth.
- The group is hoping to do a meeting every other month.

# Our Digital Literacy Services

Digital opportunity services require access to devices, an internet connection and digital skills. Below you can find how Literacy Minnesota is helping provide those services.

<https://www.literacymn.org/digitalliteracy>

## Northstar Digital Literacy



The Northstar program assesses digital skills and provides classroom curriculum and self-directed online learning.

**Website:** <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>

## Digital Access and Navigation

**Digital Navigators** mentor individuals in using technology and help with getting low-cost internet. For more information on our services contact Susan at [swbrandt@literacymn.org](mailto:swbrandt@literacymn.org).

<https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation>



**Midway Location:** 553 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104

The Midway digital literacy lab at Goodwill-Easter Seals is coordinated by Manee Thao and open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Minneapolis Location:** 627 W Broadway Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Katey Miller works at the Minneapolis campus facilitating computer labs and Northstar digital literacy classes. The lab is open from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays.

## Trainings and Workshops

We offer an assortment of programming for instructors that focus on digital literacy.

<https://www.literacymn.org/digital-literacy-trainings-workshops>

# Other Initiatives in Minnesota

## Neighborhood House



The Adult Education Program at Neighborhood House provides adult learners with ongoing educational support and learning opportunities. One of the areas of service they offer is digital literacy classes.

<https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/>

## Lyndale Neighborhood Association



The Lyndale Education Program serves the residents of Horn Towers with literacy, language, and career skills. They created the ELDES curriculum to help address digital literacy gaps in English learners.

<https://lyndale.org/>

## PCs for People



This is a nonprofit social enterprise working to get low-cost quality computers and internet into the homes of individuals, families, and nonprofits with low income.

<https://www.pcsforpeople.org/>

## Office of Broadband Development



<https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/>

Helping Minnesotans understand broadband options available and work together to improve availability and use of high-speed broadband services.

## Connectivity Blueprint

**Connectivity Blueprint:**  
*Digital Equity Roadmap for  
Ramsey County and Saint Paul*

An initiative led by Ramsey County and Saint Paul to create a community-guided roadmap for achieving digital inclusion.

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/ramsey-connected-computer-internet-resources/connectivity-blueprint>

## Technology Literacy Collaborative (TLC)



The TLC is a group of aspiring leaders in the digital equity field within the Twin Cities. They gather to problem solve and discuss best practices.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14411564>

Check out this newsletter's resource section on our website to see more local organizations.

<https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-newsletter-resources>

# Resources



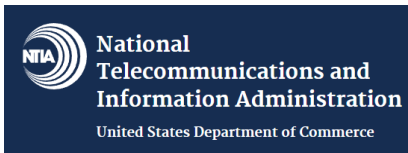
**Digital Equity Act**  
<https://www.digitalequityact.org/>



**National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)**  
<https://www.digitalinclusion.org/>



**National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE)**  
<https://www.digitalequity.us/>



**National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)**  
<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/>

## **NDIA's Important Words**

### **Digital Equity**

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. Sometimes called TEQuity/Tech Equity which is the shortening of technology equity.

### **Digital Literacy**

The ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills.

### **Digital Navigators**

Trusted guides who assist community members with ongoing, individualized support for accessing affordable and appropriate connectivity, devices, and digital skills.

*Thanks for Sponsoring*



**COMCAST**

**More information here:** <https://www.literacymn.org/digital-equity-navigation#one-network-newsletter>

**Join the mailing list here:** <https://www.literacymn.org/one-network-signup>

**Questions, comments, or concerns?** – Contact Frances Bates at [fbates@literacymn.org](mailto:fbates@literacymn.org).



651-645-2277

<https://www.literacymn.org/>

700 Raymond Avenue Suite 180, Saint Paul, MN 55114

**Mission:** Literacy Minnesota connects people to transformative learning, sparks innovation in literacy and mobilizes change.