Digital Access for All

February 2023

The Patterson Foundation (TPF) created its Digital Access for All (DA4A) initiative to explore, educate, and engage sectors working to enhance access to technology that connects people in ways that foster inclusion and well-being.

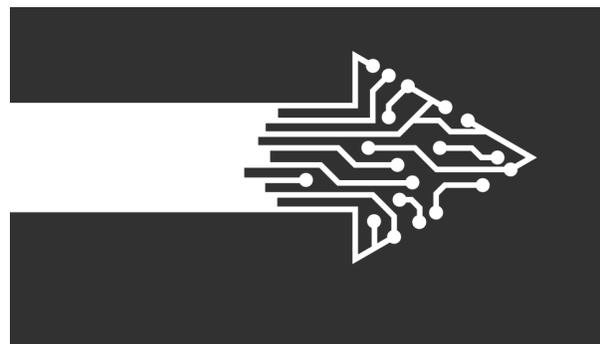## DA4A Reflects on 2022 and Plans for 2023 By Cheri Coryea

When the DA4A team gathered at the end of last year, we collectively reflected on the initiative's impact in 2022 and began establishing a path forward for 2023. As we reflected on significant milestones, we noted the following highlights:

Our Network: Our network of stakeholders has **grown** regionally, domestically, and internationally. Partnerships in our Big Tent Webversations provided connective tissue for our local governments to expand their collaborations in building their statewide local technology plans. DeSoto and Sarasota counties developed and designed plans for submission to the Department of Economic Opportunity. These submissions ensure eligibility to compete for funds from the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Act for the Expansion of Broadband.

The Digital Navigator Program: When

Impact of Digital Transformation on the Nonprofit Sector By Deb Sakellarios

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and reflect on the many workplace changes over the past two years, one clear significant evolution has been with technology, often referred to as digital transformation. Many organizations are adopting and integrating digital technology by focusing on advancing hardware, software, and connectivity to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Continue reading Deb's blog as she shares what the DA4A team has learned about the impact of digital transformation on both the private and nonprofit sectors.

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Sarasota County Libraries Joins the Digital Navigator Program
By Heather Gorman and

we completed the second Digital Navigator cohort last year, the region gained 11 certified [Digital Navigators](#). Now there are six organizations included in the Suncoast Digital Navigator Network. Launching the third Cohort in early 2023 ensures three new organizations will join, bringing the region to 33 trained/certified Digital Navigators by June 30. Our focus in 2023 is to support these organizations and their navigators to expand their network.

Telehealth and Teletherapy Project: In search of information, we opened our Telehealth and Teletherapy Project in 2022 and quickly saw that access to these services is a deep concern. Telehealth will be featured in the National Philanthropy Scan workshop series in March. These workshops, hosted in collaboration with the [National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#), have convened an audience of funders across the country that focus on solutions in Digital Equity.

Looking ahead into this new year, we are focusing on the economic importance of growing training and employment opportunities in our region's technology careers. Our team is solid, focused, and proud of the connections we've established and nurtured, but most appreciative of our partners' collaboration to close the digital divide for people of all ages in our region.
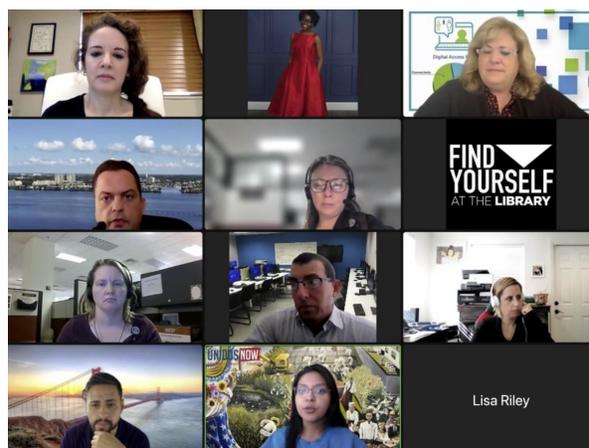

National Philanthropy Scan Workshop 3: Digital Access & Devices: Scaling the Work Domestically & Internationally With Corporate & Nonprofit Partners

The DA4A has been "full-steam ahead" and with great momentum. On Tuesday, January 31st, over **40 participants** from funders and organizations around the world joined us for an interactive workshop featuring:

Maribel Martinez

[The Sarasota County Libraries](#) is the final organization to join the third cohort of the [Digital Navigator Program](#), sponsored by The Patterson Foundation. Four library staff completed their digital navigation training in February, and the program's lead and training facilitator, [Maribel Martinez](#), is thrilled with their participation and commitment to closing the digital divide in Sarasota County. Continue reading about the additional knowledge they have gained, which complements their [Tech Navigator Service](#) and continues supporting their patrons' computing needs.

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DA4A Officially Kicks Off Cohort 3 of the Digital Navigator Program

Lisa Riley

On January 27, the DA4A team convened with Cohort 3 Digital Navigators (DN) consisting of [CareerSource Suncoast](#), the [Multicultural Health Institute](#), and [Sarasota County Libraries](#). Lucero Guzmán, a DN from [UnidosNow](#) in Cohort 1, joined us to share the organization's experience with the DN

- Karrin Smoley with Charter Communications
- Kirsten Young with American Tower Corporation
- and Scot Henley with Digitunity

This was DA4A's third of eight Digital Access Funder Workshops, which we co-hosted with The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Michael Zimmerman, DA4A's National Initiative Development Lead, facilitated a fruitful conversation engaging the panelists and participants in meaningful discussion around catalyzing widespread device ownership in communities of need. Participants dove into sustainability topics and removing barriers of access in their breakout rooms, learning from one another, sharing new ideas, and exploring possibilities. With diverse perspectives, funders contributed with knowledge about where the work has succeeded, where it hasn't, and approaches to funding devices domestically and internationally. The convening resulted in a highly engaging experience with tons of new and important connections made as we think collectively about how to close this gap.

Join us for our 4th National Philanthropy Scan Workshop: Digital Access and Telehealth: What's working, What are the challenges, and What are the opportunities?

Regardless of a funder's mission, addressing the pressing concerns of digital access touches everything we do as a society. Funders with missions in education, arts, civic engagement, climate, health, workforce, and more must expand digital access needs. After speaking to over 30 funders across the country, we are delighted to co-host pioneers in digital access who are raising the bar in what's possible during a special Funder-to-Funder Workshop.

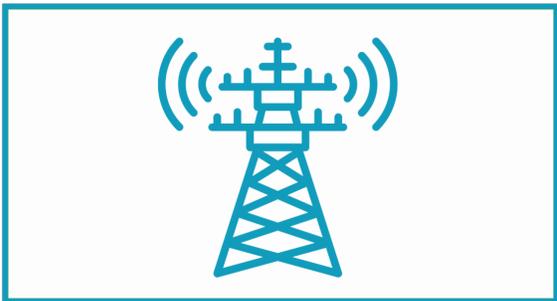**Register here to join us on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 12:30–1:45p.**

program and its benefits since then.

When asked for one word that describes a Digital Navigator, participant responses were used to create the word cloud below.

We are as excited as they are to continue working to connect individuals to low-cost home internet service, affordable computing devices, and foundational digital literacy training to make the most of the internet and its opportunities.
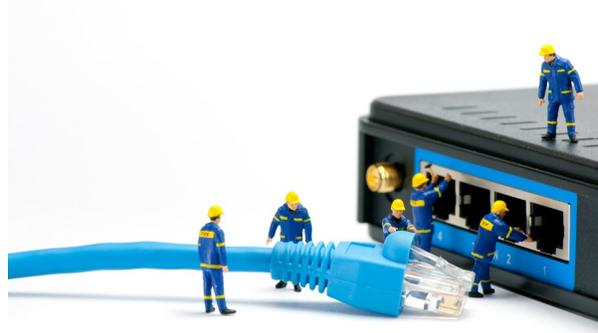
Connect with a Digital Navigator

Fast Fact #3: — Why Digital Access for All is Needed

Some 2.7 billion people worldwide remain totally offline, with universal connectivity still a distant prospect in the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, where, on average, only 36 percent of the population is online.
Source: ITU's Measuring digital development: Facts and Figures 2022.

Preparing for the Broadband Workforce By Karen Stewart

Beyond the Blog (BTB) is an evolution of The Patterson Foundation's storytelling approach focused on creating and sharing engaging content featuring the people, organizations, and communities strengthened through the Foundation's work. BTB will share multimedia content illustrating the human element at the heart of each of The Patterson Foundation's initiatives.

Access the 1st Edition

Karen Stewart shares the need to build a robust workforce to meet the program goals and timelines of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's $42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BEAD program is expected to drive historic investment in a skilled, competitive, and diverse workforce. Effective strategies to prepare displaced and disadvantaged workers for better jobs, including competitive pay and benefits, will need to be developed. To analyze the needs in our communities, Karen reached out to CareerSource Suncoast to gather some insight into the need for job skills, training, and development for the future workforce.

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Do you have a resource or idea to share with the community? Is there a national, regional, or local effort you'd like us to know about or feature in future publications? Contact DA4A at digitalaccess@thepattersonfoundation.org to be considered.
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#DigitalAccessforAll