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

**Where We've Been:**

**Milestones to Date**

- **30+ Conversations with national and state organizations**
- **50+ Conversations with county leaders in schools, libraries, economic development corporations, and nonprofits**
- **2 90-minute webinars with community leaders**
- **6 Presentations to national and state organizations**
- **7 Newsletters**
- **125+ Curated reports and resources shared through the DA4A online library**

**DA4A Website Refresh**

*By Kiarra Louis*

The DA4A team has refreshed the [initiative's webpage](#) to better reflect our exploration of strengthening efforts enhancing technology access within our four-county area: Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota. Our frequently asked questions (FAQs) now incorporate learnings from insightful conversations with national and state organizations and county leaders from various sectors. These FAQs describe the three essential elements (connectivity, devices, skills/support), the state of digital access within our asset-limited families and communities, the impact of COVID-19 on digital access, and more.

A significant aspect of the refresh was the launch of a [DA4A Resource Library](#) with interactive materials from leading state, regional, and national organizations on a broad range of digital access topics. Watch this video to learn how to use the Resource Library.

**From Exploration to Collaboration**

*By Laurie Stryker*

We encourage you to contact DA4A if you have a resource you’d like us to include in the online library. We look forward to sharing information on emerging efforts that identify opportunities to help people use broadband.
Over the past nine months, The Patterson Foundation has been on a journey to learn from our community and beyond. COVID brought the impact of home digital access in vivid focus, but we've understood the increasing movement of services online. Digital access has become not only a convenience but a necessity for our modern lives. For example, remote learning became standard this year, but school districts and colleges already relied on learning management platforms for homework, grades, and teacher communication.

You want to apply for a job, you'll be directed to submit through an employer's portal or a tool like Indeed. You want to register to vote, change your address, or request a mail-in ballot - all available online. You want to register for the COVID vaccine. It's primarily online sign-ups.

As we have discovered during our explorations to date, local nonprofits, schools, and governments are working to understand and address the digital needs of their constituents through a variety of programs and services. Our many interviews with local leaders told us there is an openness to explore collaborations that could increase and sustain digital access opportunities for all. We've reported that many communities are taking on these issues with innovative ideas to share.

In the months ahead, we will host meetings that explore the efforts already underway and discover how we might collaborate in Manatee and Sarasota Counties to address the digital divide. Initial conversations are scheduled for March and April. The understanding, ideas, and energy we've encountered over the past months inspire us to facilitate these conversations.

The DA4A team wants to learn more about its readers' digital access.

**Question 1: How would you describe where you live now?**
- Rural
- Suburban
- Urban

**Question 2: How would you describe your internet at home?**
- Slow: it takes forever to load a page (banking page, school assignment, etc.)
- Moderate: enough to get online and comfortably browse the web
- Fast: able to stream YouTube videos and download files
- Lightning fast: fastest possible connection

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.