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.

**UnidosNow Executive Director Receives National Award from Bank of America**

Luz Corcuera will direct $200,000 in flexible funding from Bank of America to UnidosNow. The organization will use the funding to expand its programming. Read more [here](#).

**Special Report: Toward an Equitable Digital Future**

Libraries are bridging the divide and empowering communities. Learn how library workers are educating

A couple of years ago, a group of visionary leaders in Palm Beach County, Florida, came together to find their shared aspirations and forge a collaborative path forward in confronting the challenges of Digital Access and Inclusion in their region. They recognized the overwhelming need for access and connectivity to high-speed internet in the county and began to ponder what was possible. As there is great power in a strategic partnership, a collaboration was formed to address the challenge of building infrastructure to connect residents of the county who lacked connectivity to high-speed internet.

The [Digital Inclusion Initiative](#) is an undertaking that is both ambitious and quite remarkable. At the national level, it's rare to find such large collaborations spanning all sectors (for-profit,
An Increasing Need for Laptop Donations

In a recent interview with Mike Hutchinson of Sarasota Technology Users Group (STUG), Mike emphasized they need donated laptops. Over 15,283 households in Sarasota alone indicated in the 2020 U.S. Census that they had no computer in their home, and another 26,751 had no internet subscription.

Can you imagine not having the ability to search for information and access resources easily?

STUG was founded in 1982 to provide education and technological resources for people who do not have computers/laptops or know how to use them. STUG’s highly skilled technology professionals refurbish old computers/laptops and have a monthly education class schedule, special presentation forums, help desk offerings, and a regularly updated listing of scams to avoid. Since they began in 1982, they have refurbished 18,149 computers back to the community.

Learn how to donate your old laptop so that others can be connected. There are specific details on what types of donations they take and how they return donations to the community.

Call STUG’s office at (941) 677-0246 before coming to know when and where to go with your contributions.

Digital Navigator Program: Cohorts 1 and 2

In November 2021, the three Cohort 1 agencies from The Patterson Foundation’s Digital Navigator Program wrapped up their pilot participation and declared their intention to continue with digital navigation. We circle back with Goodwill Manasota, UnidosNow, and Women’s Resource Center to learn more about how their programs have evolved after six months.

"We are so grateful to The Patterson Foundation and Maribel Martinez for the comprehensive training we received for our digital navigators," said Margie Genter, VP of Mission Services. Genter added, "Six months later, we are STILL providing these services to the people we serve. We know that the digital navigation landscape is constantly evolving [...]. We are grateful to be part of the [...] initiative so that we can stay abreast of the changes [...] and continue to move our participants forward with their digital skills."

"We hired two digital navigators, and we are finishing [...] with their training," said
The Digital Access for All Team was excited to participate in Suncoast Remake Learning Days presented by The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading with the support of The Patterson Foundation. There were more than 140 events over 10 days hosted by more than 165 organizations, including schools, museums, libraries, after-school organizations, early child care centers, universities, media outlets, and more, all for free! Among the many things we learned while attending various events is that learning happens in the classroom and beyond, and it’s creative, curious, energetic, challenging, hands-on, messy, joyful, and fun!

### Affordable Connectivity Program Updates

UPDATE ALERT: May 9, 2022, was a big day for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and the estimated 48 million households who qualify for it across the country. The Biden-Harris Administration announced that they have secured commitments from 20 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to offer at least one high-speed internet plan with a minimum of 100 MB download for no more than $30 a month and a guarantee of no additional fees or data caps. You can view The White House press briefing on this announcement [here](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2022/05/09/affordable-connection-program-update/) and read the

Oscuvilca also shared that their Digital Navigation Program spreads to clients through word of mouth. UnidosNOW has helped with affordable broadband, computers, and free digital skills training. Soon, UnidosNOW will begin accepting digital navigation appointments online, but they continue promoting their digital navigation services in the community during local outreach events.

"Overall, things are great, and we are grateful to have the Digital Navigator Program!" said Lori Gentile, Director of Client Services at Women's Resource Center (WRC). The nonprofit, staffed mainly by volunteers, has seen increased digital navigation appointment requests for digital literacy training to improve marketability for higher wage-paying jobs. The agency is also working with scholarship recipients who need digital navigation support, and as always, they are actively recruiting volunteers. [Contact](#) WRC to learn more about volunteer opportunities and digital navigation.

In April 2022, Cohort 2 agencies convened to formally meet one another for the first time during a virtual Meet & Greet hosted by The Patterson Foundation's DA4A team.

With training completed in March, newly minted digital navigators from Easterseals Southwest Florida, FUNducation, and Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida had the opportunity to share how they each planned to implement digital navigation within their existing programs and services, say more about their unique clients and anticipated challenges, and share their experiences with launching digital navigation at their sites. [...]
National Digital Inclusion Alliance’s summary [here](#).

**ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker**

County information is updated quarterly. To find additional ACP enrollment data, click [here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Enrolled Households Nationally (As of May 2, 2022)</th>
<th>11,569,930</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Households in Florida (As of May 2, 2022)</td>
<td>840,315</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Subscribers in Charlotte County (As of Feb 1, 2022)</td>
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<td>Total Subscribers in DeSoto County (As of Feb 1, 2022)</td>
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<td>Total Subscribers in Manatee County (As of Feb 1, 2022)</td>
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<td>Total Subscribers in Sarasota County (As of Feb 1, 2022)</td>
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<td>Total Subscribers in the Suncoast (As of Feb 1, 2022)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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](mailto:digitalaccess@thepattersonfoundation.org) to be considered.

[@ThePattersonFdn](https://twitter.com/ThePattersonFdn)  
#DigitalAccessforAll