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.

Closing the Digital Skill Divide

National Skills Coalition (NSC), in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, released Closing the Digital Skill Divide, a real-time snapshot of demand for digital skills in the U.S. labor market. The analysis finds that 92% of jobs analyzed require digital skills. Previous NSC research found one-third of workers don’t have the foundational digital skills necessary to enter and thrive in today’s jobs. Together, these findings point to a significant digital skill divide. This report also found that public investments in closing this digital skill divide can generate measurable economic payoffs for businesses, workers, and the broader economy.

Closing the Digital Skill Divide finds strong demand for digital skills across every industry (dispelling misconceptions that demand exists primarily in the tech sector) and in almost every occupation, including entry-level and frontline positions. The report also finds that the digital skill divide disproportionately impacts

The 2023 ALICE Report

The Patterson Foundation strengthens people, organizations, and communities, including ALICE. United Way uses the acronym - Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) - to define hardworking families with little to no savings and stand one emergency away from crisis. Though living above the poverty line, these households struggle to cover basic needs such as food, housing, childcare, and transportation.


United Way Suncoast recognizes the best way to help involves marshaling our resources and uniting the community behind a collective effort. Community members are invited to a webinar at 10 a.m. on May 23 as WTSP Brightside anchor Frank Wiley guides a
workers of color, low-income individuals, and rural residents due to historic underinvestment and structural inequities.

Read Closing the Digital Skill Divide report here. View the Closing the Digital Skills Divide webinar here.

National Philanthropy Scan Workshop #6: Breaking Digital Access Barriers in Education: Catalyzing Effective Community Ecosystems

People now have broader access to educators and courses virtually, but only if the population is digitally connected. Digital Access in Education presents a great opportunity to connect people of all ages to learning environments. As we think about how funders can help close this gap and create new realities, we recognize that it all comes back to creating an ecosystem that effectively connects communities to the resources they need.

In this Digital Access Funder Workshop, we explored a model for ecosystem-level change in education across various communities in the U.S., highlighting the collaboration of people, communities, organizations, funders, and their larger environments, which all play a role in digital equity. We were thrilled to welcome the following panelists immersed in this work:

- Cristal Mojica, Senior Program Manager Digital Equity - Michelson 20MM Foundation
- Jorge Gonzalez, Digital Access Director - The Miami Foundation
- Marta M. Casas-Celaya, APR - Director External Affairs - Comcast

Digital Literacy is critical to bridging the digital divide. As we connect people, organizations, and communities with access and devices, will they know how to use them to thrive in society? While some funders have prioritized philanthropic investment in Digital Literacy, others are wrestling with where and how to invest. From Digital Navigator programs to partnerships with schools, funders are eager to find ways to effectively improve digital literacy in the communities they serve for equal opportunity, economic competitiveness, and broader societal engagement. Focusing on disadvantaged and older adult populations has been a priority for some funders. In this Funder Workshop, we will dive in and explore themes of Digital Literacy with the following pioneers in the space:

- Tiffany Benjamin, Chief Executive Officer - Humana Foundation
- Tom Kamber, Founder and Executive Director - Older Adults Technology Services (OATS)

Join us for a powerful Funder Workshop on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 12:30p – 1:45p EST. Register here.
Watch the recording [here](#).

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**U.S Census Tools & Training**

Whether you are looking for the most current demographic or economic statistics about your community, the Census Bureau has trainings that can help you access the information you seek. You can choose and customize their most popular topics according to your needs. The Census Bureau has a team of Data Dissemination Specialists who can assist in bringing the world of data to you by providing workshops and presentations at no cost. Fill out a service request form to request the following:

- Data Workshops and Presentations, in-person or via webinar.
- A presentation on a data topic relevant to you or your constituents.
- Hands-on training for accessing Census Bureau data.
- A presenter for your conference or event.

[Request a training here](#) to better understand the digital access needs in your community and more.

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**Miami Connected** seeks to make Greater Miami the most technologically inclusive and equitable community in the nation by providing students and families access to the tools and opportunities they need to succeed in today’s digital world. This collective impact initiative brings together community, philanthropy, business, and government leaders to increase access to broadband internet, invest in digital skills training, and create accessible pipelines to careers in technology for historically under-represented groups. Learn more [here](#).

**Comcast’s Project Up** initiative advances digital equity and helps build a future of unlimited possibilities. Backed by a $1 billion commitment to reach tens of millions of people, Project UP encompasses the programs and community partnerships across Comcast, NBCUniversal, and Sky that connect people to the Internet, advance economic mobility, and open doors for the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, storytellers, and creators. Learn more [here](#).

**Michelson 20MM** houses the Digital Equity Pooled Fund, a collaboration between multiple funders focused on advancing digital equity in California. Learn more [here](#).

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**Legislation Awareness:**

**Computers for Veterans and Students (COVS) Act**

According to the American Community Survey (ACS), about 10% of Florida households report having only a smartphone and no other computing device (2019). In 2019, there were 7,905,832 households in Florida, which indicates that roughly 800,000 homes across the state lacked the essential large-screen devices to use the internet effectively. The main reason for not owning a computer is cost.
Community Members Launch their Digital Transformation Journeys During #SuncoastRemakeDays

Suncoast Remake Learning Days wasn’t just about kids. The Professional Development theme allowed adults to access various free content throughout the 10-day festival. For Maribel Martinez, a consultant with The Patterson Foundation, it was a chance to introduce adults to digital tools that could change how they work, learn, and walk through life daily. Read her reflection about #AppliedDigitalSkills and #BuildCodeGo, two distinct workshops launching participants on their digital transformation journeys.

In December 2022, President Biden signed into law the Computers for Veterans and Students Act (COVS), which allows the federal government to donate out-of-service computers to nonprofit refurbishers to repair and distribute them to veterans, students, and those who cannot afford them. According to Common Sense Media, three COVS helps to close the digital divide in the following three ways:

- **Addresses a pressing need** — At least 10 million U.S. students do not own a device suitable for learning, and nearly 40% of lower-income U.S. households do not have a computer.
- **Expands the supply of affordable devices** — New computers are expensive. Refurbished computers are an affordable alternative, but the pool of refurbishable devices is limited and inconsistent. The COVS Act has the potential to expand the supply.
- **Maximizes the use of technology** — Digital inclusion is about more than giving people devices and internet service; it also means training people to use those technologies. That’s why the COVS Act requires computer refurbishers and distributors to provide digital skills and literacy training.

So, what can you do? Don't dump. Donate! Donating your computing devices ensures that someone in your community who needs them can have a device they will get good use of at a lower price for years to come. Learn more here.

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.