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.

Sarasota County Library’s Tech Navigators

Stumped by technology? Your technology questions can be answered through an in-person appointment with a Tech Navigator at the Sarasota County Public Library. Tech Navigators are library staff members that offer one-on-one assistance for your specific technology need(s). Your questions could be about devices, apps, internet use, eBooks, digital library services, and more.

Signing up for tech assistance is straightforward. **Complete an appointment form HERE**, and you will be contacted by a librarian to schedule an in-person session. If you have questions, call their Information Center at 941-861-1110. They’d be happy to connect you with what you need!

It All Started with “Who Else Cares?”

Throughout the last several years, The Digital “Yellow Brick Road” to Equitable Health and Wellness

Lauren Turner, DA4A’s Telehealth and Teletherapy Project Lead, compares the path to equitable health and wellness to the yellow brick road from the *Wizard of Oz*. In her blog’s unique approach, Lauren emphasizes the importance of telehealth and teletherapy and the challenges people experience in accessing these vital health services.

Reminder: As part of our Telehealth and Teletherapy project, DA4A created a survey to gather local data on access to telehealth and teletherapy. Help us by completing the survey below and share them widely with your family, friends, and constituents.

- [Telehealth Survey in English](#)
- [Encuesta Sobre la Telesalud y la Teleterapia](#) (Telehealth Survey en Espanol)
funders across the nation have struggled with defining their role in supporting the advancement of digital access. That is why The Patterson Foundation embarked on a journey to connect with funders of all types worldwide to discuss how digital access aligns with their mission. DA4A’s goal is to share learnings widely to help funder relationships thrive while exploring or investing in the digital access space. The project has created a comfortable platform for funders to learn, share, and connect.

Michael Zimmerman, DA4A National Initiative Development Lead, shares a peek into an upcoming report and a webversation series that will create a forum to continue the conversation through interviews with more than 30 funders across the country. This National Philanthropy Scan journey began by asking, "Who Else Cares?"

This year Digital Inclusion Week (DIW) is on October 3-7, 2022. As an annual week of awareness, recognition, and celebration, organizations and individuals across the country host special events and campaigns to promote digital equity in their communities. This year’s theme is “Turning Our Moment into Movement,” signaling a turning point and time of action for the digital inclusion movement.

DIW aims to raise awareness of solutions addressing home internet access, personal devices, and local technology training and support programs. Here’s how you can use NDIA’s resources for DIW so you and your organization can join:

- Create or Participate in An Activity: Hold or participate in an

Using the State Digital Equity Scorecard to Examine Efforts Addressing Digital Equity

Digital Equity is a compelling workforce issue that must be addressed collaboratively by governments, businesses, local communities, nonprofit organizations, and foundations. Using the State Digital Equity Scorecard, Karen Stewart examines the extent to which states are addressing digital equity and shares promising practices from top-scoring states that increase digital equity.

Leveraging Technology to Innovate a Tested Digital Inclusion Strategy

Maribel Martinez participated virtually via Zoom next to Neirda Thompson-Pemberton, Executive Director of FUNducation, Inc. (right), pictured with Bettye (left), a Sarasota resident who was connected to affordable internet for the first time in her life at the first hybrid internet enrollment event for The Patterson Foundation.

The Patterson Foundation trains local organizations as Digital Navigators through the Digital Navigator Program to connect asset-limited families and individuals with opportunities to obtain

Save the date for DIW22!
event that offers digital skills training, access to devices, or outreach of the Affordable Connectivity Program.

- **Raise Awareness on Social Media:** Post about the digital divide and your community’s digital inclusion efforts using hashtags #DIW2022 and #digitalequityNOW.

- **Engage Elected Officials:** Ask officials to support Digital Inclusion Week 2022 and prioritize digital equity initiatives.

Maribel Martinez, DA4A Consultant, and Neirda Thompson-Pemberton, founder of FUNducation, Inc., share the benefits of an innovative hybrid event model that emerged as a safety net for new Digital Navigators as they help narrow the digital divide and connect people in their communities.

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.

@ThePattersonFdn
#DigitalAccessforAll