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

Cheri Coryea Talks Digital Access for All with WUSF Public Media

Recently, WUSF Public Media featured Digital Access for All initiative lead Cheri Coryea in a 4:39 podcast about digital access and the work The Patterson Foundation is doing in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.

Listen Here 4:39

Digital Navigators and the Device Divide: Community Voices from Seven U.S. Cities by Maribel Martinez

You’ve heard of the digital divide, but did you know there’s also a device divide? Shockingly, in our region, more than 27,000 households are without any form of computing device. Learn more about a recent study featuring Digital Navigators from across the country who shared their experiences procuring devices for their clients with Maribel Martinez and about why The Patterson

Connecting to Close The GAP by Rachel Ploss

Today, it seems like the word “connection” has much more depth. This gives me hope that connection will be recognized as an essential basic necessity in person or online. Thanks to the pandemic, connection in all its forms was laid bare as a human need. Arguably, digital connection has become the most vital. Digital access has become required to connect with
The Patterson Foundation’s [Digital Access for All](https://www.pattersonfoundation.org) initiative celebrates Suncoast Digital Inclusion Month in October 2023. This work evolves from the [National Digital Inclusion Alliance Digital Inclusion Week](https://www.diaalliance.org) from October 2–6, 2023 highlighting awareness, recognition, and celebration by organizations and individuals from across the county, which includes special events and campaigns to raise awareness for solutions to promote digital inclusion. The project will bring together others who care to learn what is being done locally, regionally, and nationally to promote digital inclusion.

Collaborating with Digital Navigator Program agencies, The GAP, A2A, and others, a series of digital inclusion events will be implemented to shed more light on the digital divide and help increase internet, devices, and digital skills adoption in Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Stay tuned for updates to the Suncoast Digital Access Month activities [calendar](https://www.pattersonfoundation.org/digital-access-calendar), which will include collaborative events to support state planning for digital inclusion and equity.

**The Three Essential Elements of Digital Access**

Three essential elements or “legs of the...
“Stool” emerged as critically important through The Patterson Foundation’s in-depth research and interviews with national thought-leaders in digital access. In her blog titled A Seat, Three Legs, and Rungs, Avery Crews Prado de Lima compares the three essential elements to three rungs of a stool, where each piece is necessary. **Continue reading her blog about the importance and interconnectedness of each.**

Why is connectivity so important? In today’s society, you must have reliable internet to thrive and participate in the modern world. We live in an age where digital access has become the “Internet of everything.” Regardless of whether someone chooses to participate or has the resources to do so, major interactions in these areas assume that citizens, workers, and students are connected. In her blog, Broadband Access is a Basic Need, Rachel Ploss shares a personal story highlighting her realization of the importance of broadband internet. **Continue reading her blog on its impact, barriers, and promising solutions.**

Lastly, Alexa Carr emphasizes the importance of digital literacy and skills to make use of the internet in meaningful ways. **Continue reading her blog about Empowering Digital Inclusion: The Role of Skills and Support Training in Digital Access.**

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**Sarasota County Libraries revving up new Pop-Up Library mobile service – Special to the Herald-Tribune**

Sarasota County Libraries will be offering a mobile Pop-Up Library service with a collection of materials and technology. The fully staffed vehicle provides residents with access to thousands of resources. Learn more in the Herald-Tribune’s story [here](#).

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Please contact TPF Fellow Avery Crews Prado de Lima with any questions.

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**Meet Our New DA4A Team Member, Andrew Spector**

The DA4A team is excited to welcome TPF’s 10th Fellow, Andrew Spector, to the DA4A team!

Prior to The Patterson Foundation, Andrew co-founded and directed Tulsa Changemakers, a youth leadership development and action organization working towards a future where Tulsa is a model city for youth-driven impact. Andrew started Tulsa Changemakers as a 6th-grade teacher and Teach For America corps member and incubated it under the nonprofit umbrella of Leadership Tulsa, working there as a Program Manager. Andrew holds a Master of Arts in Philanthropic Studies from the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the Honors College at College of Charleston.
Local Technology Planning Teams Critical to Digital Equity Planning
by Karen Stewart

The Digital Access for All initiative has been working to connect and engage with the Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties to strengthen individuals, organizations, and communities while striving to enhance digital equity, a driver of economic competitiveness. This work is imperative to ensure digital equity and access, including connectivity, devices, and skills to strengthen people of all ages and backgrounds, especially ALICE families who often work in jobs essential to the workforce and earn just above the Federal Poverty Level.

Last month, Karen’s blog provided a summary of progress made for the major programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Jobs Act), which was passed in November 2021 and includes historic funding to rebuild America’s infrastructure, including $65 billion to help ensure that every American has access to reliable high-speed internet through investments in broadband deployment. This blog provides an overview of the efforts by the Florida Office of Broadband to engage communities in the planning process through Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs).