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Digital Access for All

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.

Reflecting on DA4A's Third Year in 2023

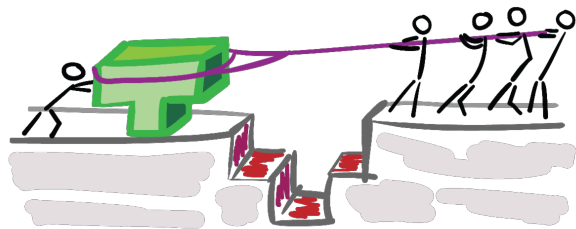


In June 2020, The Patterson Foundation created Digital Access for All to explore the efforts of multiple sectors working to enhance access to technology that connects people in ways that foster inclusion and well-being. Exploring digital access is necessary because of the advent of the "Internet of everything," a concern for access (especially for many asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE) families), and the potential possibilities for our communities. Three years later, we have witnessed tremendous growth and collaboration in 2023!

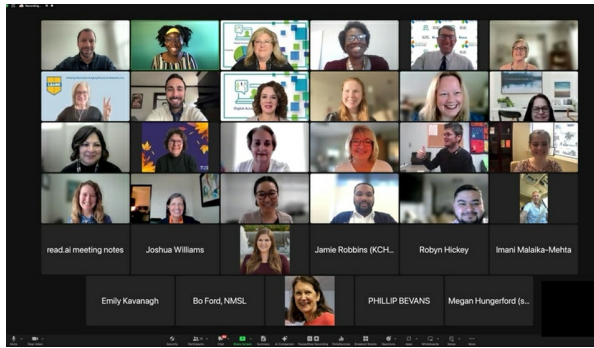
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Pathways Forward: Learnings and Takeaways in Digital Access Webversation Follow-up

DeSoto County "Solutions to Actions" Dive into Discovery



The Digital Access for All ([DA4A](#)) initiative, launched by [The Patterson Foundation](#) in June 2020, has been working to connect and engage with the Charlotte, Desoto, Manatee, and Sarasota regions to strengthen individuals, organizations, and communities while striving to enhance digital equity, a driver of economic competitiveness. Over the past several months, the DA4A team has been connecting with the Florida Commerce Broadband Office to learn how the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) has evolved across the country and in Florida. In my prior blog, [Federal Broadband Funding Progress and Next Steps](#), I summarized the funding and progress made 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 that are essential to the workforce and earn just above the Federal Poverty Level. This blog provides a quick update on how the process will move from planning to



implementation in 2024 and some critical next steps.

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On November 17, The Patterson Foundation (TPF) brought together 30 people representing 27 funders from across the United States and Canada for the ["Pathways Forward: Learnings and Takeaways in Digital Access" National Philanthropy Scan Report, Phase 2, Webversion](#). The purpose of the Webversion was to share the report, discuss strategy in response to the report, increase connective tissue between digital access funders, and explore the ways funders are moving work in digital access forward. Read a blog post by DA4A Team Member and The Patterson Foundation Fellow Andrew Spector, sharing about the webversion, key takeaways, and next steps.

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Old Stuff, New Life



In celebration of Suncoast Digital Inclusion Month, the [Digital Access for All](#) team at The Patterson Foundation implemented [a device drive in our four-county area](#) to collect old devices and put them to new use, thanks to [Sarasota Technology Users Group](#) (STUG). With donation locations throughout our four-county region, including the [Women's Resource Center](#), the [DeSoto Solutions to Actions event at the Turner Agri-Civic Center](#), and [The Patterson Foundation](#), community members had many opportunities to participate.



To optimize and amplify impact, The Patterson Foundation has initiated [The Gap](#) to close the ACP eligibility and enrollment gap in the Suncoast to ensure those eligible for ACP are taking advantage of it. This month's Gap Report features key events, such as MCR's Health Expo, Manatee County School District's School Choice Community Resource Fair, and more. [Read the monthly Gap Report here.](#)

Data Highlights: Over 40 intake forms were completed, and 95% of those households are potentially eligible. Since October, 109 referrals have been made to connect these individuals and households to digital navigators who will help them enroll in ACP, get devices, and receive digital skills training and support.

Join us for DA4A's Digital Suncoast Collaboration Webversion on January 18th From 9:30 AM-11 AM

Join us on January 18, 2024, from 9:30 AM to 11 AM for our Digital Suncoast Collaboration Webversion! Our webversions are attended by various nonprofits, schools, libraries, and human services providers to continue exploring ways to increase digital access to families and communities in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. By fostering wide participation throughout our region and beyond, we continue to connect and explore opportunities and possibilities together.

Throughout October, 119 devices were donated to STUG for refurbishment and redistribution to community members needing devices capable of connecting to the internet. The outpouring of support for this donation drive proved that sometimes, all the community needs is for someone to ask them to participate. While we may not always know what to do with old devices, STUG does, and you can support them by donating year-round. To learn how to request or donate a computer, visit thestug.org/refurb_files/refurb.

During this webversation, key 2023 milestones and updates from the device donation and ACP enrollment will be shared. DA4A will also provide insights from the National Philanthropy Scan, the Florida Broadband Summit, and key Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) dates. Please join us on January 18 for this collaborative discussion! [Register here](#).

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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.

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[#DigitalAccessforAll](#)



The Patterson Foundation | 2 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 206, Sarasota, FL 34236

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