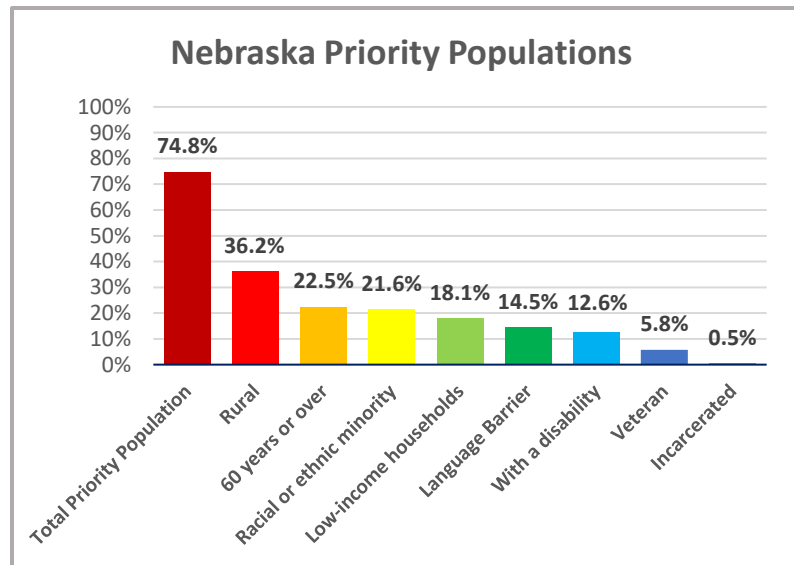


Developing Nebraska's Digital Access, Skills and Opportunities Plan

With funding from the NTIA, the State of Nebraska will be developing a plan to ensure Nebraskans have the internet access, digital skills and opportunities to fully participate in our increasingly digital economy and society. The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) will be leading the planning effort with the assistance of the state's regional economic development districts and the Nebraska Library Commission. The one-year grant is expected to start in late September of 2022. States which complete plans can apply for \$7.2 million or more in funding over 5 years to implement a state digital access, skills and opportunities grant program.

Digital Needs. Planning activities will address the following needs:

- Affordable, robust broadband service
- Internet-enabled devices that meet user needs
- Applications and online content
- Access to digital literacy training
- Quality technical support
- Measures to ensure online privacy and cybersecurity



Priority Populations. Planning efforts will focus on eight priority populations shown in the chart to the right. Approximately 75% of Nebraska's population is included in one or more priority populations. Those living in rural areas are Nebraska's largest priority population, comprising 36% of Nebraska's population. Rural residents may be dually challenged, facing obstacles related to broadband availability and also having fewer digital equity resources available. While the needs of all priority populations will be addressed, those living in rural areas—including farmers and ranchers—will be a focus of the state's planning efforts.

Library Capacity. Libraries play an important role in digital equity efforts. Planning efforts will address the capacity of libraries—particularly small, rural libraries—to participate in digital equity efforts.

Planning Activities. Planning activities will include:

- Webinars on covered populations, best practices and other topics
- Listening sessions focused on covered populations
- The development of regional digital equity plans
- A statewide planning conference
- Inventory of digital inclusion assets and identification of best practices

Coordination with BEAD Planning. The NITC will coordinate planning efforts with the Nebraska Public Service Commission's BEAD 5-year deployment planning efforts.



For More Information. Contact Anne Byers, Digital Equity Manager, at anne.byers@nebraska.gov or 402 471-3805.