Digital Access in Utah – Statewide Navigator Program

Utah Commission on Aging
9/5/24

Helping People. Changing Lives.
Community Action Partnership of Utah
America's Poverty Fighting Network.

Community Action 60 Years

Outline

Introduction to CAP Utah / Utah CAA Network

Background of the State Digital Access Plan

Plan Vision and Goals

Statewide Digital Navigator Program

CAAs in Utah

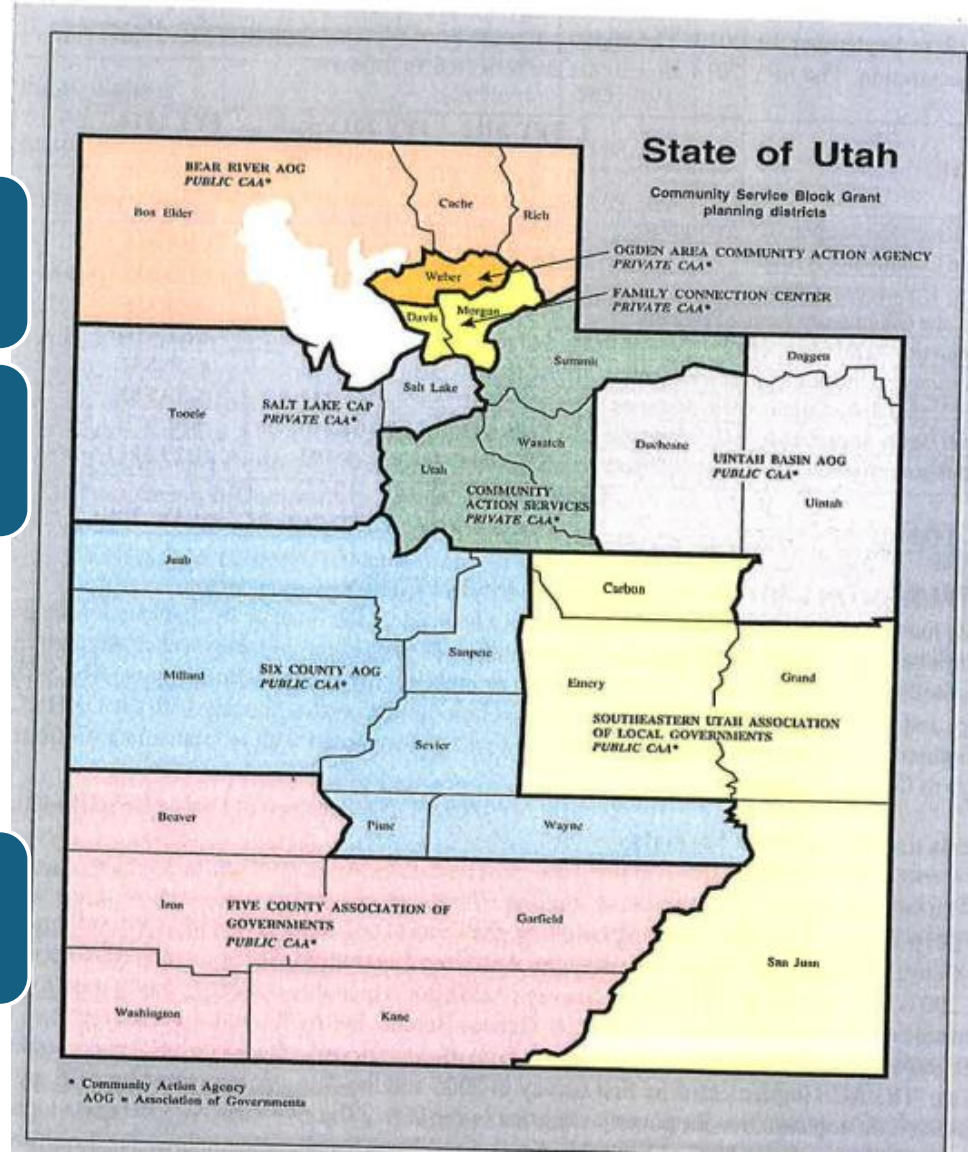
Utah's 9 CAAs cover all 29 counties and **serve over 96,000 low-income Utahns**.

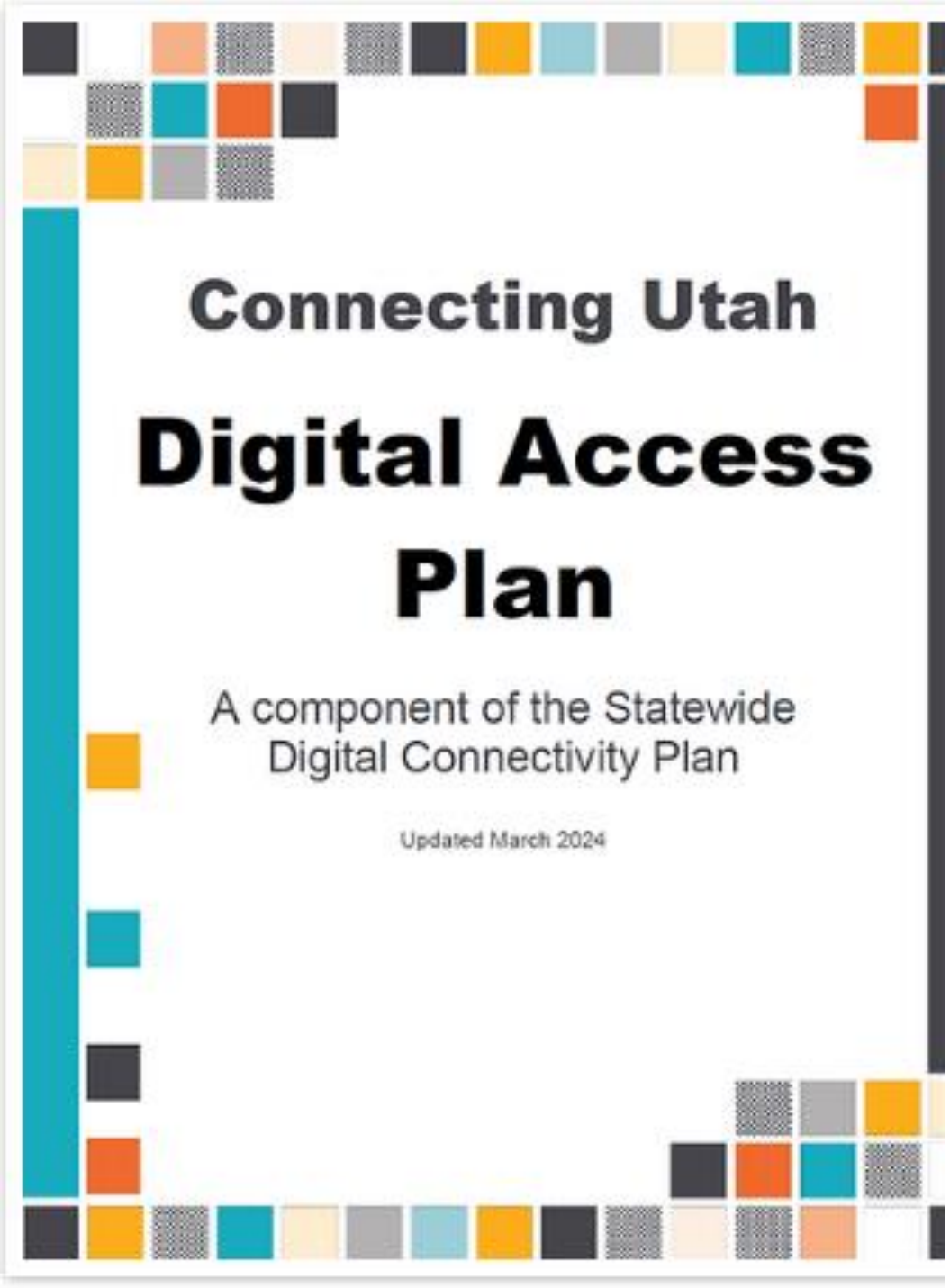
5 Community Action Agencies are Association of Governments (Public CAAs)

- Bear River AOG
- Uintah Basin AOG
- Southeastern Rural Development Council
- R6 Regional Development Council
- Five County AOG

4 Private CAAs

- Utah Community Action
- Community Action Services and Food Bank
- Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership
- Open Doors





Utah State Digital Access Plan/UDON: Building a Roadmap to an Inclusive Digital Society

Utah Broadband Center - Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

How the Digital Access Plan Came to Be:

- Existing digital equity groups in Utah
- Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021
  - Digital Equity Planning Grant
- Building off past digital equity coalitions during COVID-19 pandemic
- Utah Broadband Office and the Utah Digital Opportunity Network (UDON) facilitated conversation and brought key stakeholders together.
- Digital Equity Planning Grant

Digital Access Plan – A Roadmap to the Future

- Plan was submitted to Nation Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration (NTIA) in March 2024 and accepted in April 2024
- The plan is a living document and a roadmap to creating

  “ a Utah where all are invited to fully participate in modern society through access to affordable high-speed internet, safe and reliable devices, and training to achieve digital independence. “

ERNET R ALL

Why Internet Matters Programs Newsroom Funding by State/Territory

NEWS AND MEDIA > PRESS RELEASES

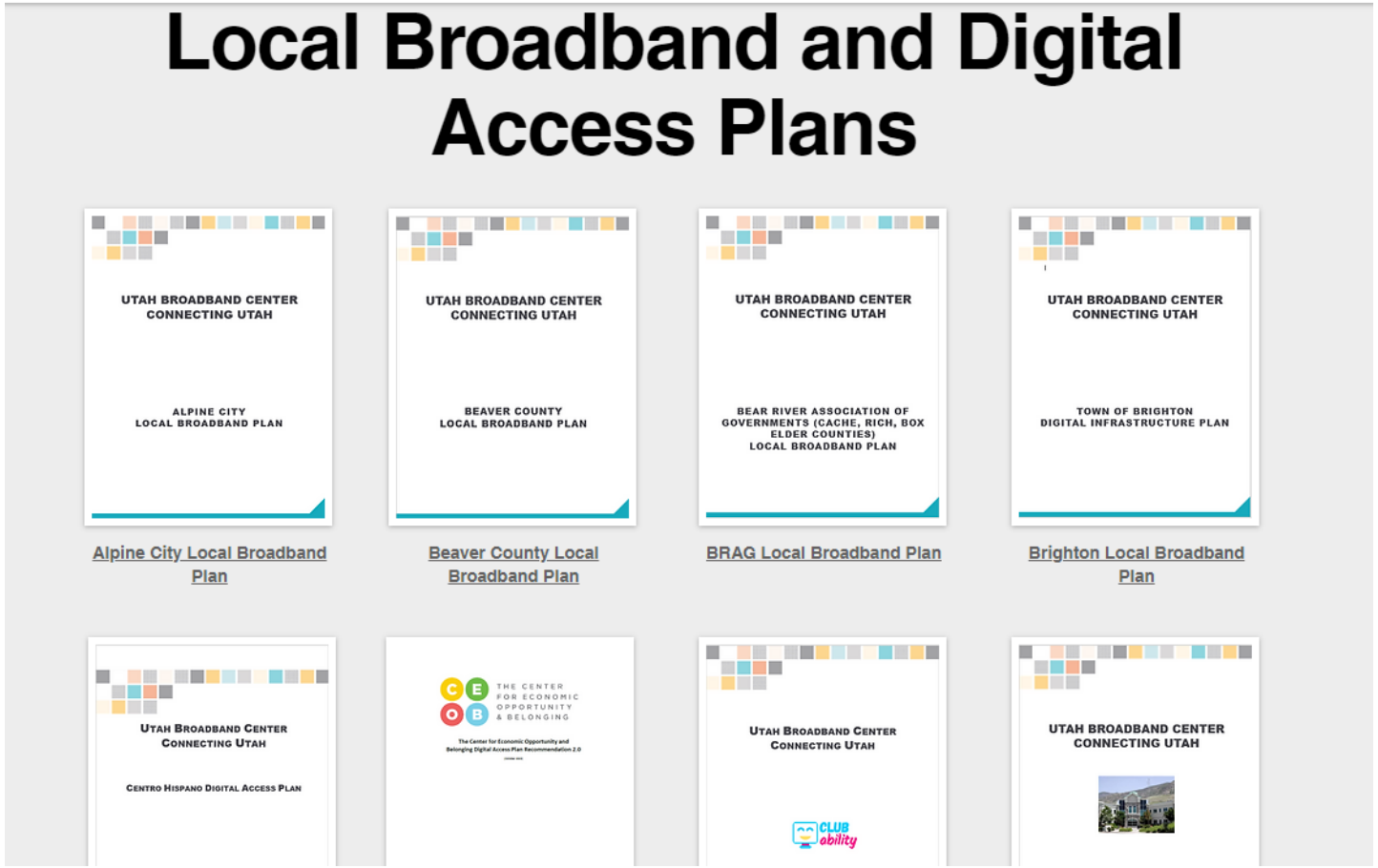
Utah’s Digital Equity Plan Accepted

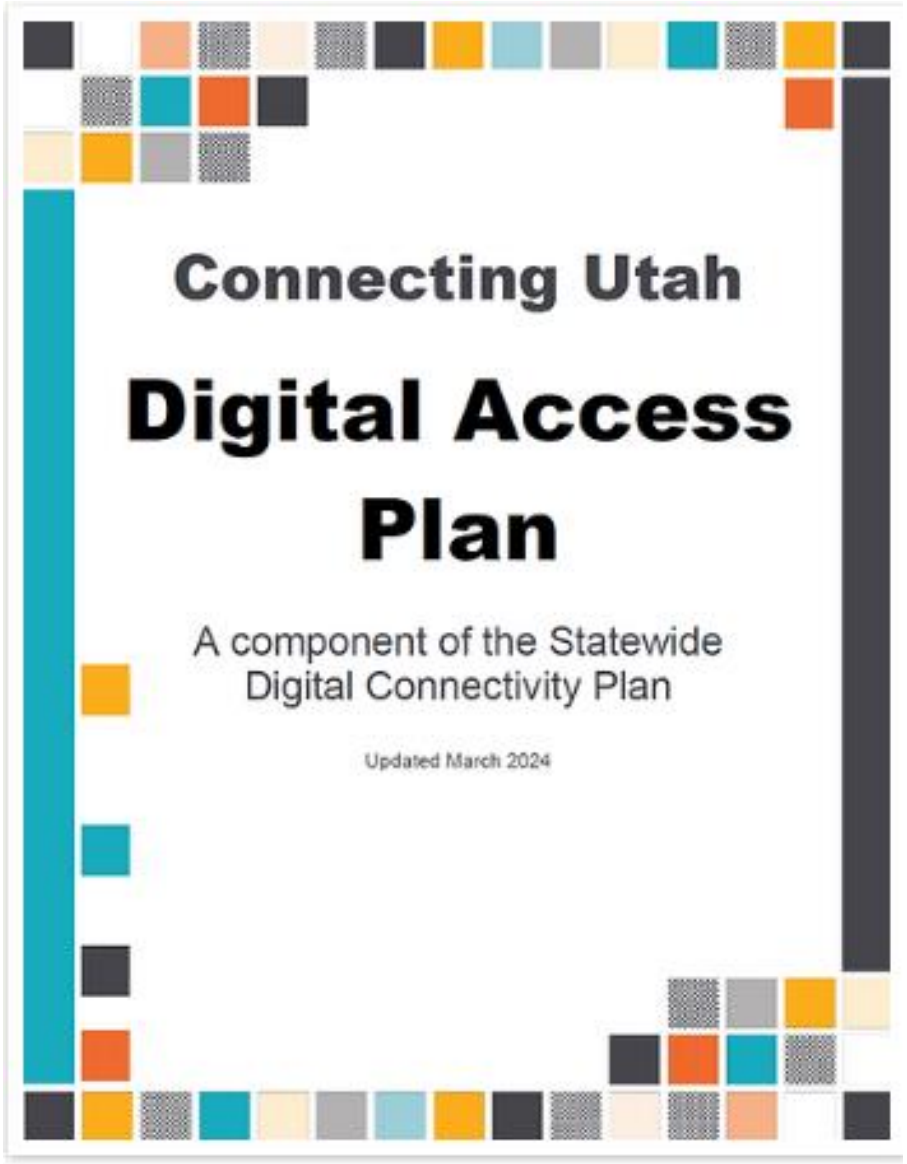
APRIL 11, 2024

WASHINGTON – The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has accepted Utah’s Digital Equity plan.

The Digital Equity Act, part of the Internet for All initiative and a key piece of President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda, provides $2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. The program aims to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity
d to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

Coordination with Local Broadband and Digital Access Plans





State digital equity plan

GOALS

- Goal of the plan is to train for digital independence and economic mobility
- Connect every Utahn affordability, accessibility, and safety
- Increase the availability of dependable devices
- Build a coordinated, sustainable community (Utah Digital Opportunity Network – UDON)

https://www.connectingutah.com/digital-connectivity-plan

State digital equity plan

KEY STRATEGIES

. Promote programs that build digital skills and support local initiatives

. Partner thoughtfully to put connectivity within reach for every resident

State digital equity plan

KEY STRATEGIES

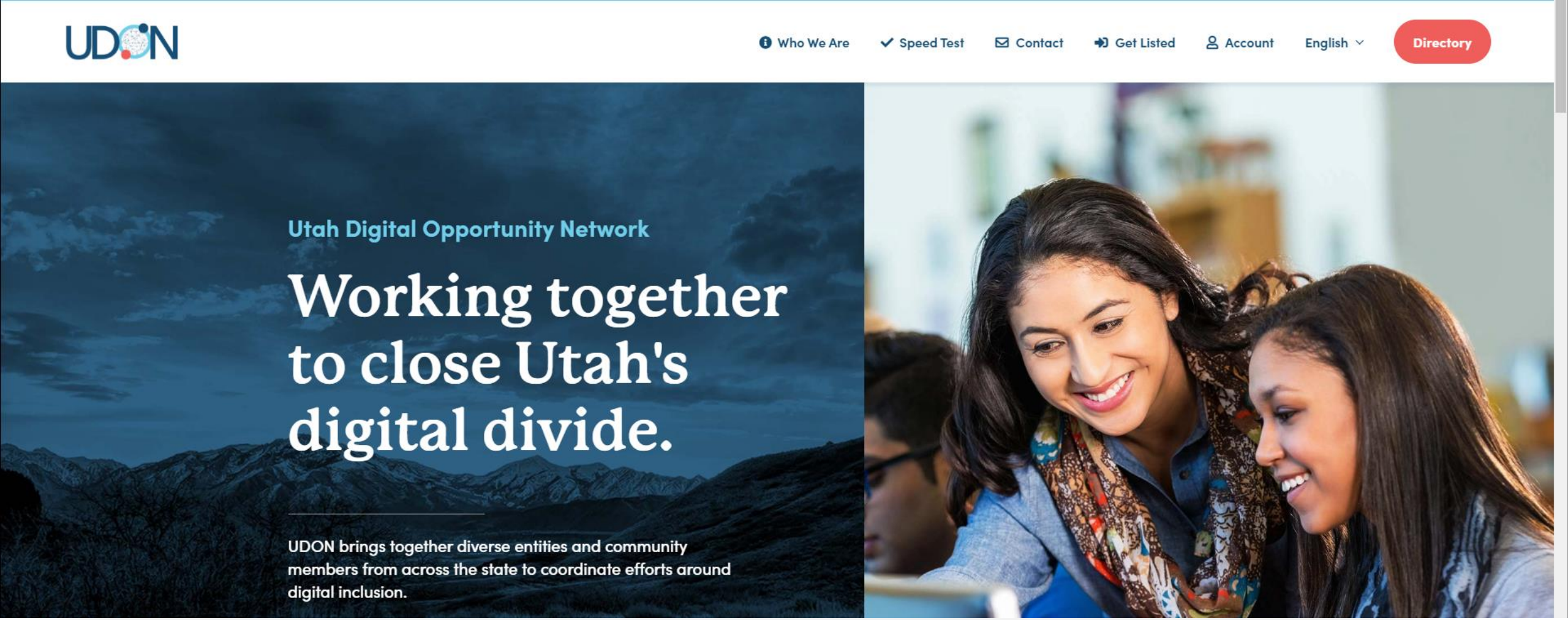
. Invest in changes at the system level that impact device access

. Think collaboratively and share generously among digital inclusion practitioners

Key “Covered” Populations

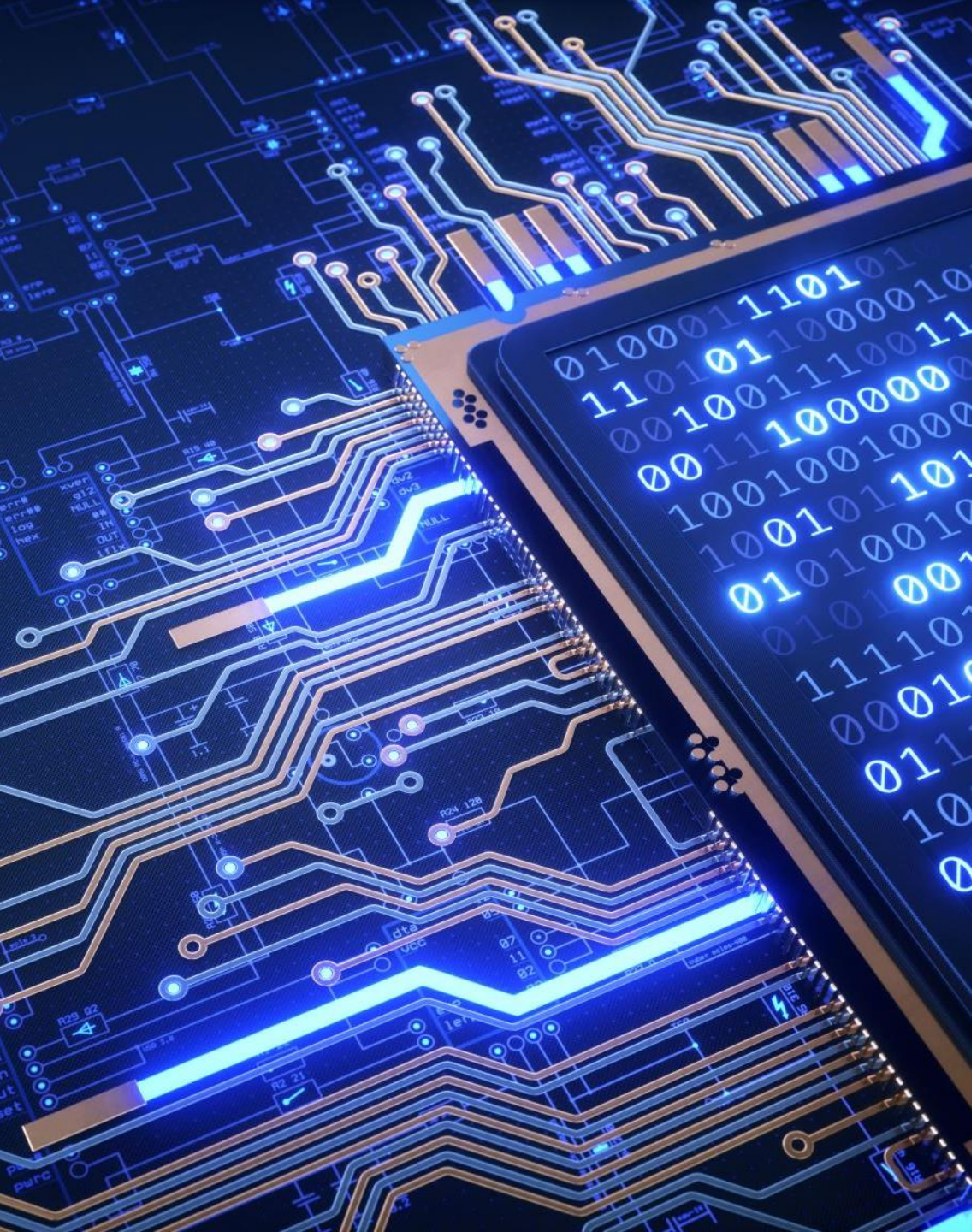
- **New Americans**
- **Formerly Incarcerated Individuals –**
- **Seniors**
- **Rural Communities**
- **Veterans**
- **General Covered Population (those at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level)**

Building a Sustainable Ecosystem



Utah Digital Opportunity Network

https://www.utahdigitalequity.org/



What is Digital Navigation?

- **Navigators** - **Trusted guides** who assist community members in the use of computing devices, internet adoption, and device procurement. Also called Mentors, Digital Navigators, or variations of Tech Help.

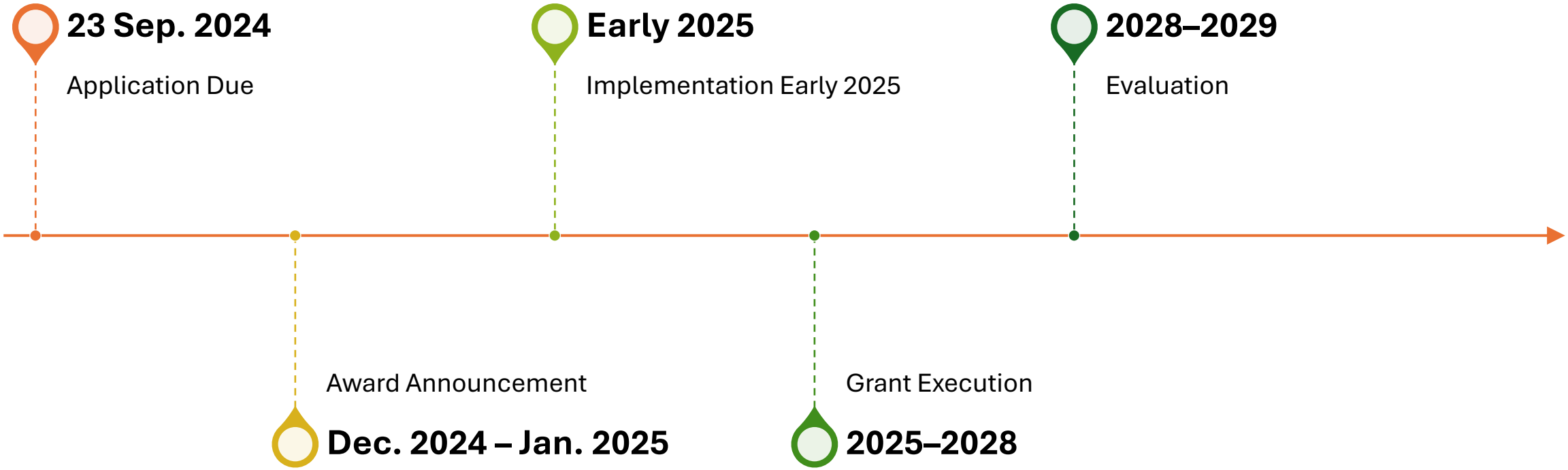
CAP Utah Working with UDON on Statewide Digital Equity Grant

Support	CAP Utah will support statewide digital navigator effort – specifically bring in CAAs that serve rural and frontier communities
Work	CAP Utah will work to build a network of meeting families where they are at – food pantries, utility assistance, tax preparation sites, etc. – and connect them to community hubs for trainings and additional resources
Act	CAP Utah will act as a lead for other partners who specialize in other covered populations identified through the Utah Digital Opportunity Network • CAP Utah will create "linkages" between CAAs and other grant partners
Support	CAP Utah will support Tech Charity as a strategic partner in increasing refurbished devices in rural Utah
Bring	CAP Utah will bring its network to UDON while working with a Regional Community Action collaboration of Mountain and Plain States.

Partners and Collaborators

- Utah Broadband Office (Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity)
- Utah Digital Opportunity Network (UDON) – Being Supported by the Center of Inclusion and Belonging
- Utah Commission on Aging (and network)
- Utah Libraries / Utah Educational Network / Telehealth Network
- USU Extension Remote Online Initiative
- Utah Tech Charities
- Other Non-profit organizations to reach "covered" populations

Timeline


23 Sep. 2024
Application Due
Award Announcement
Dec. 2024 – Jan. 2025
Early 2025
Implementation Early 2025
Grant Execution
2025–2028
2028–2029
Evaluation

Community Action Partnership of Utah

State Association for Utah's 9 CAA's

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Helping People. Changing Lives.

Community Action PARTNERSHIP of UTAH

America's Poverty Fighting Network.