

Technology Committee

Digital Equity Team
August 1st, 2025

Strategy 1-1: BEAD

- Program Changes
- Recommendations

Strategy 2-1: Public Wi-Fi

- Progress on Public Wi-Fi Projects

Strategy 5-1: Digital Navigator Program

- Welcome new Digital Navigators
- June 2024 to June 2025 Metrics

Strategy 5-2: Digital Literacy Programming

- Northstar Online Learning Metrics
- Licenses Awarded

Strategy 6-2: Digital Equity Coalition

- Upcoming Meetings

BEAD – Program Changes



Topic	Major Change
Non-deployment funding	Rescinded—no reimbursement for digital equity or device programs
Proposal restart	Initial and final approvals rescinded; new Initial Proposal needed
Subgrantee round	New “Benefit of the Bargain” round for all locations
Scoring criteria	Lowest program cost per location; secondary criteria tied to speed
Technology eligibility	Technology-neutral; fiber, wireless, satellite allowed
LCISO requirement	Must offer $\geq 100/20$ Mbps plan; states cannot cap price
Environmental reviews	NEPA streamlined; ESAPTT tool mandated
Eligibility maps	Update required for CAIs and locations served or excluded
Deployment timeline risk	Delays of up to 1–2 years possible due to process changes

BEAD - Recommendations



1. Continue to monitor BEAD application waves
2. Engage ISPs in early discussions
3. Ensure County coordination supports streamlined permitting for ISPs
4. Lobby federal / state agencies as needed to mitigate risks of delays

Public Wi-Fi Projects

- Drafting IGAs with City of Waukegan and City of North Chicago
- Reviewing Public Wi-Fi Network Project Drafts
- Receiving equipment for network implementation



Mock-up of Waukegan Public Wi-Fi Network

Welcome New Digital Navigators!



Wilner Valencia Vera, Digital Navigator

8/1/2025



Rashaun Lewis Ditto, Digital Navigator

Digital Growth Initiative

Cumulative Metrics 2024 - 2025



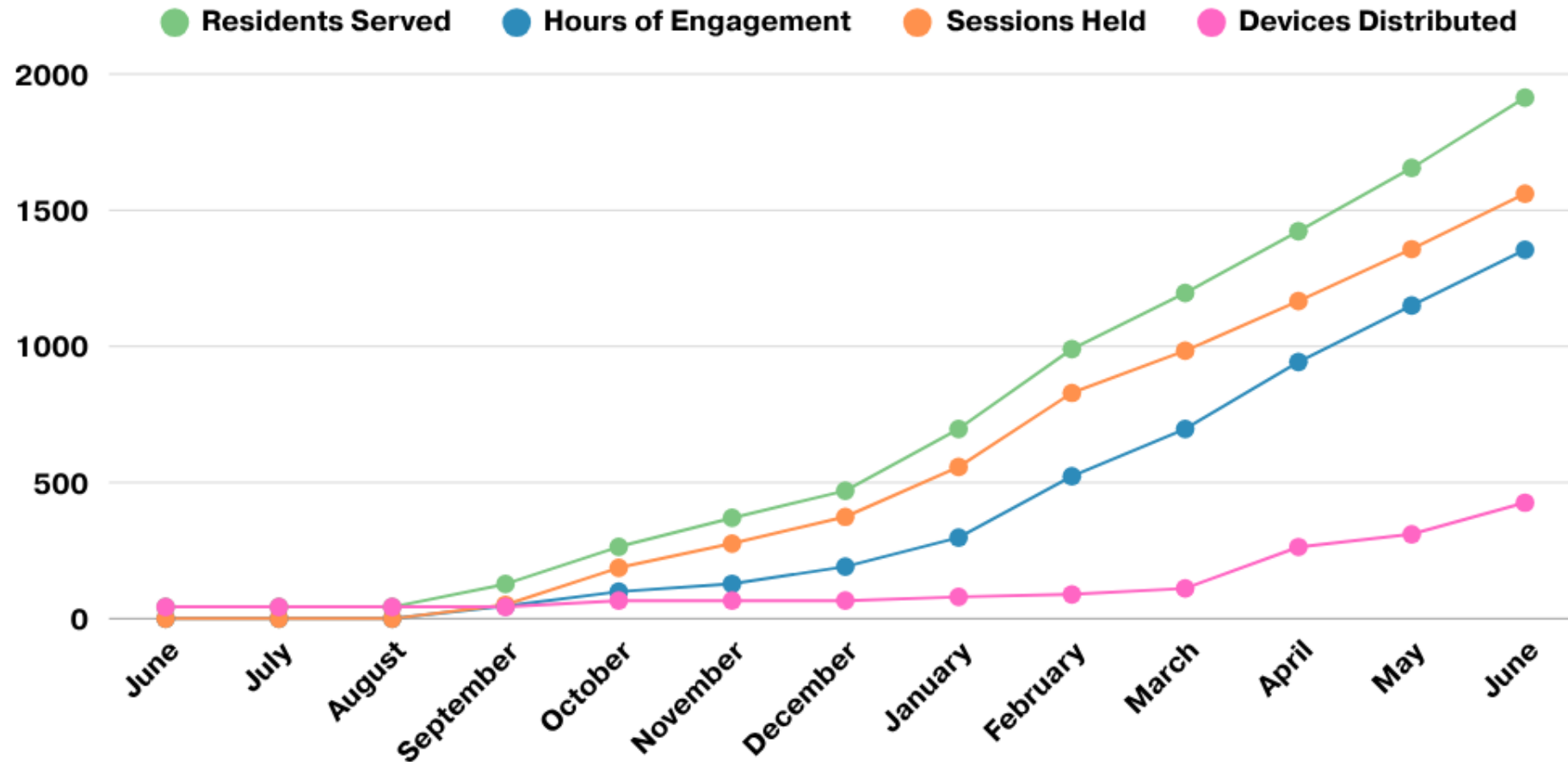
Totals to Date:

1913

1355

1561

426



Recent Learn to Earn Cohorts



**Round Lake Area Public Library
Cohort 4 – Spanish Led Instruction**

8/1/2025



**Waukegan Public Library
Cohort 2 – English Led Instruction**

Northstar Online Learning



**Lake County Illinois Network**
NETWORK

Unique Users ⓘ	Learning Hours ⓘ	Assessment Time ⓘ	Total Time ⓘ	Assessments	Assessments Passed	Assessment Pass Rate	Assessment Gains ⓘ	Badges Claimed	Certificates Awarded ⓘ
293	169 hr	295 hr	464 hr	1035	508	49%	+14.86%	80	451

Northstar Online Learning Licenses



- Northstar Online Learning (NSOL) Accounts for Proctoring assessments
- Classroom Curricula
- Account set-up

- Train the Trainer Session on all the above
- Unlimited seats for eligible residents

- Reporting
- Marketing

Application to Receive a Northstar
Digital Skills License



Lake County Digital Equity Coalition Meeting July 29, 2025



- Number of attendees: 27
- Number of organizations represented: 13

Agenda:

- Welcome and Digital Literacy Tip
 - Introduction – New Digital Navigators
- Lake County's Broadband and Digital Equity Action Plan - Trivia
- Member Spotlight – Patricia A. Jones Center
- Northstar Digital Literacy / License Update
- DGI Metrics / Accomplishments
- Upcoming Programming
- Monthly Coalition Outreach Toolkit
- Next Steps



Member Spotlight - Patricia A. Jones Center

Digital Equity Coalition Meetings



- Upcoming Coalition Meeting - Virtual on Zoom
 - August 26th - 12:30 – 1:30PM
 - ***Come prepared to discuss ideas on how the DGI can help your organization with Digital Equity.***



Register Here for the August – Virtual Meeting

- Upcoming In-Person Coalition Meeting – Save the date!
 - Tuesday, September 23rd – 2:00 – 4:00PM



Register Here for the September – In-person Meeting



Questions