

→ CalDEP Funding Track Summary—Track 1

Regional/Local Digital Equity Ecosystems (Planning + Capacity and Implementation)

Overview

Track 1 is designed to provide subgrants at the county or multi-county level. Track 1 subgrants are for (1) developing and refining regional and local digital equity plans that align with the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) and (2) providing capacity to implement digital equity activities directly or through second-tier subgrants to local Eligible Entities that align with strategies, key activities and measurable objectives in the SDEP.

↗ Funding

- Funding is allocated by county geographic areas. Each county geographic area's formula-based funding allocation is specified in RFA 7. Allocation & Award Formula.
- Track 1 Lead Applicants may apply for one or more county funding allocations.
- CDT will only award one application per county funding allocation, and the awarded application will receive the entirety of the county's funding allocation.
- CDT encourages Lead Applicants to identify partnerships of interested entities within each county.
- Applications will be scored based on the Lead Applicant's experience and capacity, among other evaluation criteria as specified in the RFA.

Program Requirements

Track 1 applications must align with the following program requirements and expectations:

- Develop or refine a regional/local digital equity plan that aligns with the California SDEP and meets minimum requirements outlined in the RFA.
 - Each plan must outline strategies, key activities, and measurable objectives to benefit members of all Covered Populations within the county/counties in alignment with the SDEP.
 - Each plan must be completed and approved by CDT before CalDEP awards may be used for implementation of activities.
 - Each plan must address the entirety of the county or multi-county area it represents. If a Lead Applicant is awarded for a multi-county area, a regional/local digital equity plan must be submitted for each county.
- Implement local digital equity activities that align with SDEP measurable objectives and regional/local digital equity plan.

- Build coalitions, form partnerships, or engage with supportive stakeholders for planning and implementation.
 - Track 1 applications must include more than one Letter of Intent or Letter of Support from partners or stakeholders within the geographic scope of the application (county or multi-county region).
 - Track 1 Lead Applicants may make second-tier subgrants to other Eligible Entities in the county or multi-county region to assist with implementation of local digital equity activities.
 - Contribute to CDT's ongoing collection of responses to Statewide Digital Equity Public Survey and DEEM tool.
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Model Application

A model, or competitive, Track 1 application may include the following components:

- A Lead Applicant with experience, reach, and partnerships across their specified county or multi-county region.
- A Lead Applicant with experience managing large initiatives, managing federal or state grants, and making grants or subgrants to other organizations (if proposed)
- Local partners representing Covered Populations and digital equity practitioners identified by the time of application.
- The Applicant Team (Lead Applicant and partners) reflects a strong understanding of the regional/local digital equity landscape (stakeholders, barriers, and assets) to expedite local digital equity plan development.
- Application clearly aligns with SDEP goals, measurable objectives, targets, implementation strategy, and key activities.
- The Lead Applicant will award and manage second-tier subgrants to community-based partners and digital equity practitioners to implement eligible digital equity activities and strengthen the local digital equity ecosystem.

