

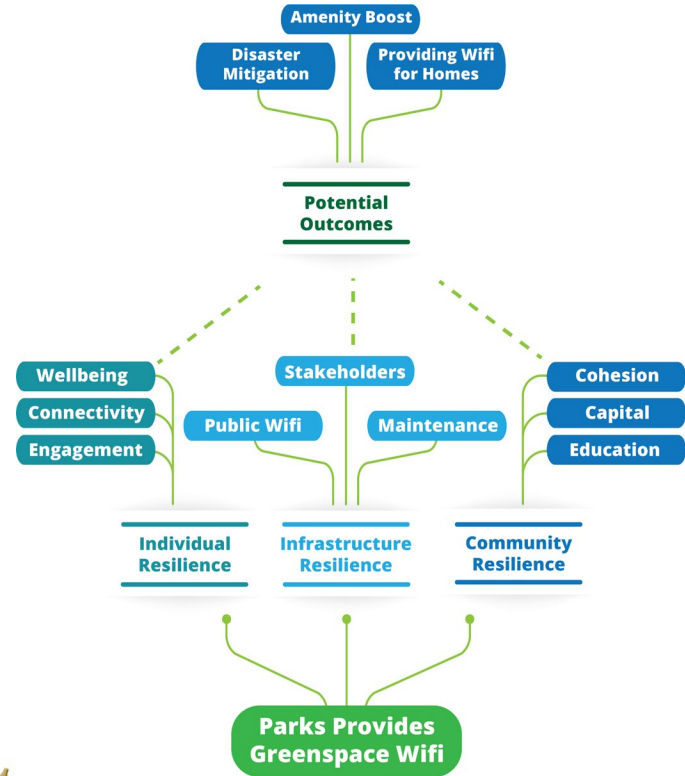


Digital Divide | Skills Update

1. WiFi Project in Watkins Park– Building Resilience Through Internet and Greenspace Exposure (BRIDGE)-NSF Funded Planning Grant– (awarded August 2021) 1 year
2. Digital Literacy (“Tech Extension”) Program- ARPA | State of Maryland Funded (awarded May 2022) – 2 years
3. Community-Engaged, Digital Equity Mapping Project (Nov 2022)- State of Maryland Funded – Digital Inclusion Program



Building Resilience through Internet
and Digital Greenspace Exposure



Team: Planning Grant



UMD Researchers & Students (S)

Micaela Ada (S) - Landscape Architecture

Yang Bai (S) – Computer Science

Beth Bonsignore - iSchool

Tara Burke - Smart Cities Initiative

Kim Fisher - PALS

Heather Killen (S) - Education

Nitzan Koren (S) - iSchool

Byoung-Suk Kweon - Landscape Arch.

Boyoung Park (S) – Landscape Arch

Jennifer Roberts - S. Public Health

(PI) Nirupam Roy - Computer Science

Naomi Sachs - Landscape Architecture

Irtaza Shahid (S) – Computer Science

Marci-Ann Smith (S) – Landscape Arch and Public Health

M-NCPPC – PGC Parks

Lauren Belle – Sustainability Specialist

Joy Haghtalab – PALS Liaison

Bridget McCusker (S) - PALS

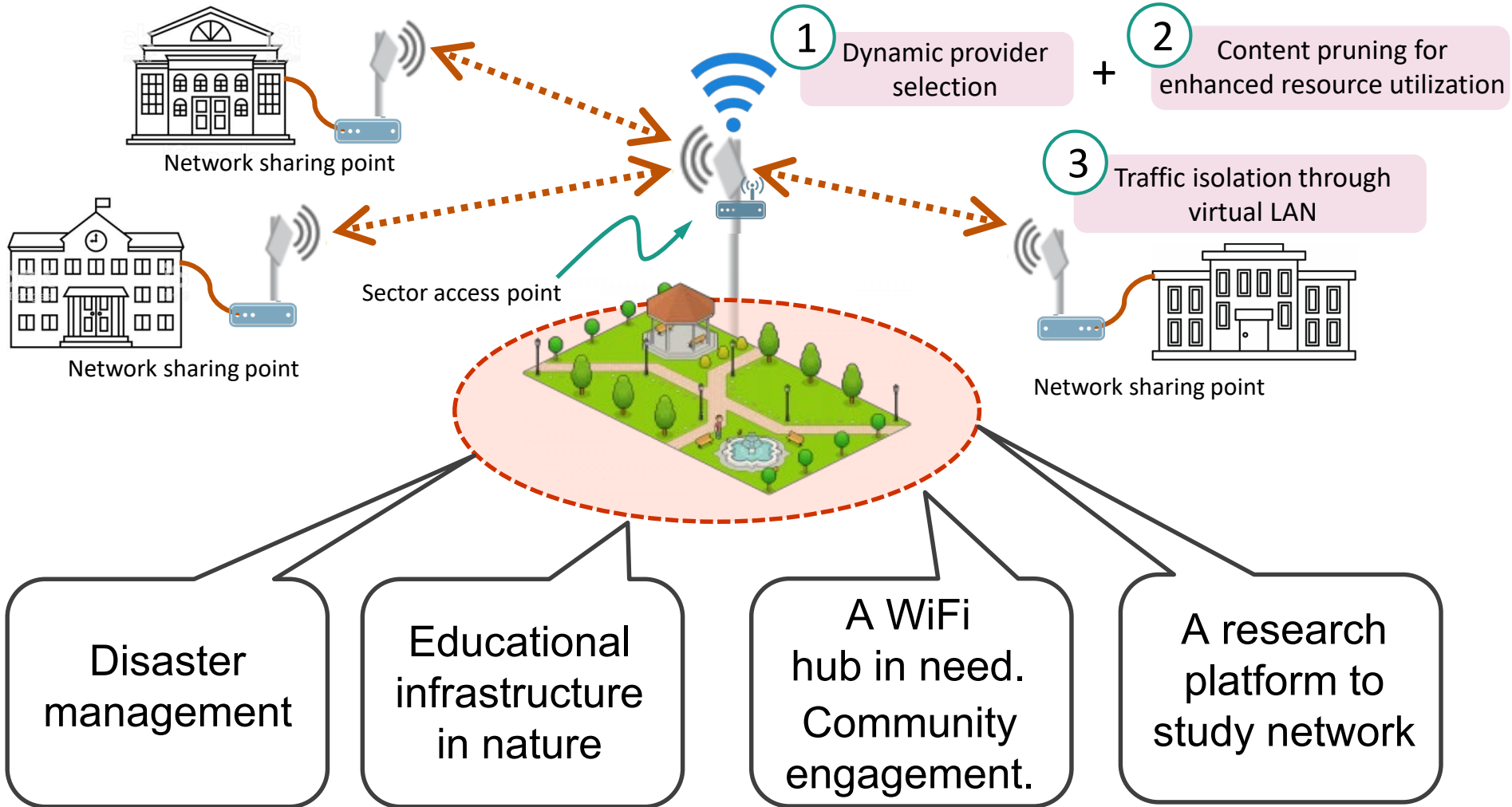
Eugenia Mercer - Partnerships

George Moxley, Jr. - Operations

William Rhodes – Network Infrastructure

Matt Weidner – Network Infrastructure

Tracy Wright - Partnerships





Planning Grant Project Parts

- Community Survey – 427 responses
- Experimental WiFi set up and test in the park
- PALS 1 – Landscape Architecture Class – survey and designs
- Stakeholder focus group – potential bandwidth donors: higher ed infrastructure (via community college), school, churches, businesses
- PALS 2 – interdisciplinary research experience for students
- STEM youth education sessions – summer 2022
- Assess risks – ISP; legal impediments; leveraging available infrastructure

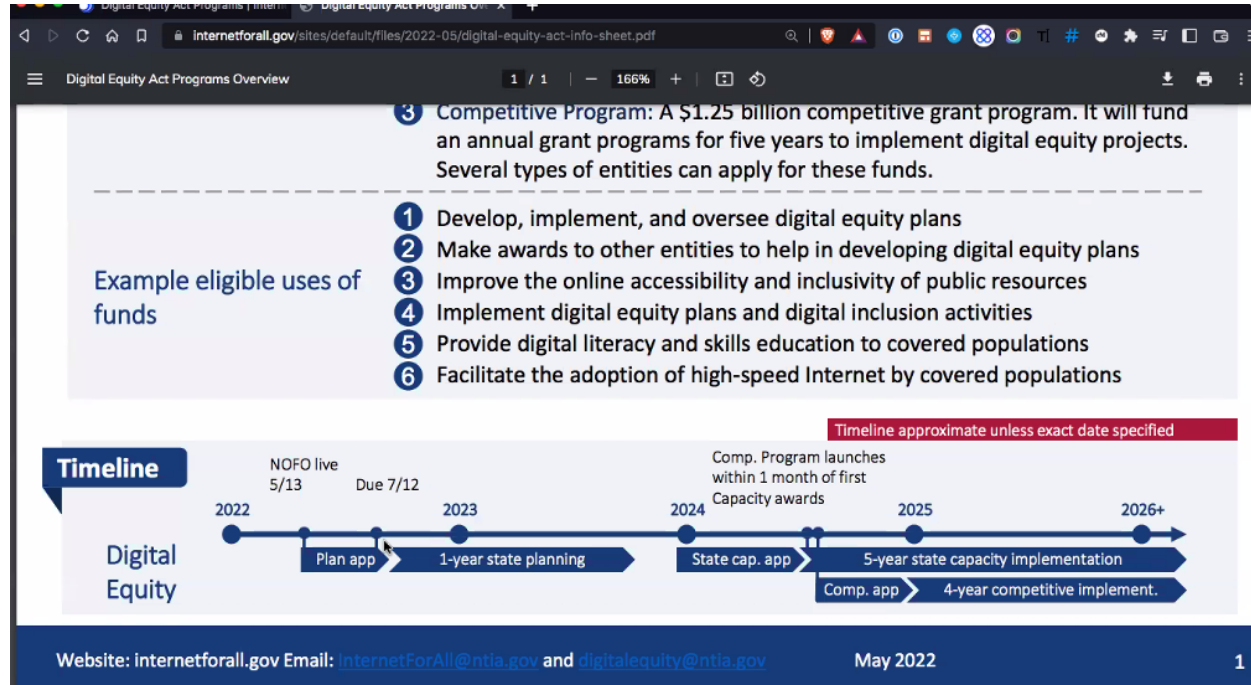


#2 - Digital Literacy (“Tech Extension”) Program

University of Maryland Extension – Jinhee Kim
iSchool – Mega Subramanian

- **DIGITAL LITERACY SUMMIT ON 10/20** – summary of information presented at this event.
- \$4M for Digital Literacy (Skills) from ARPA: Develop/adapt curricula, train, and support to address the digital divide in Maryland.
- Digital Navigator (\$2M): provide end-to-end support for people by assessing their digital needs, finding options that suit users, and improving their technical knowledge: examples: helping people that need help turning on a computer and operating a mouse to helping people with more advanced skills apply for jobs and operate programs.
- Program priority groups: Residents in Baltimore City and rural counties, BIPOC, foreign-born, seniors, youth, low-income households, low-education and less skilled workers, and people with disabilities.
- <https://extension.umd.edu/techextension>

Broadband equity, access and deployment (BEAD) program: \$42.5B

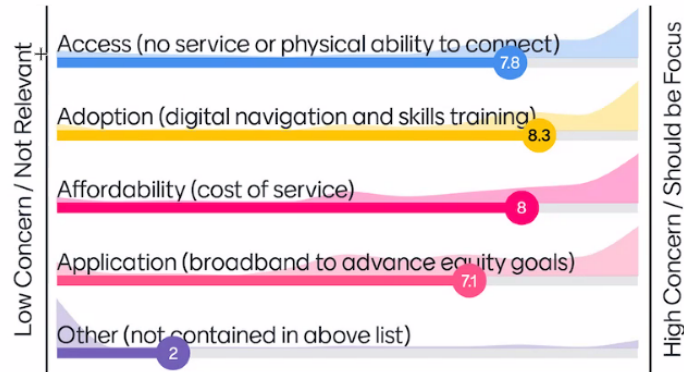


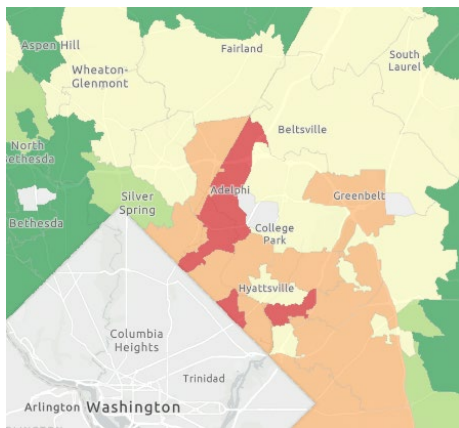
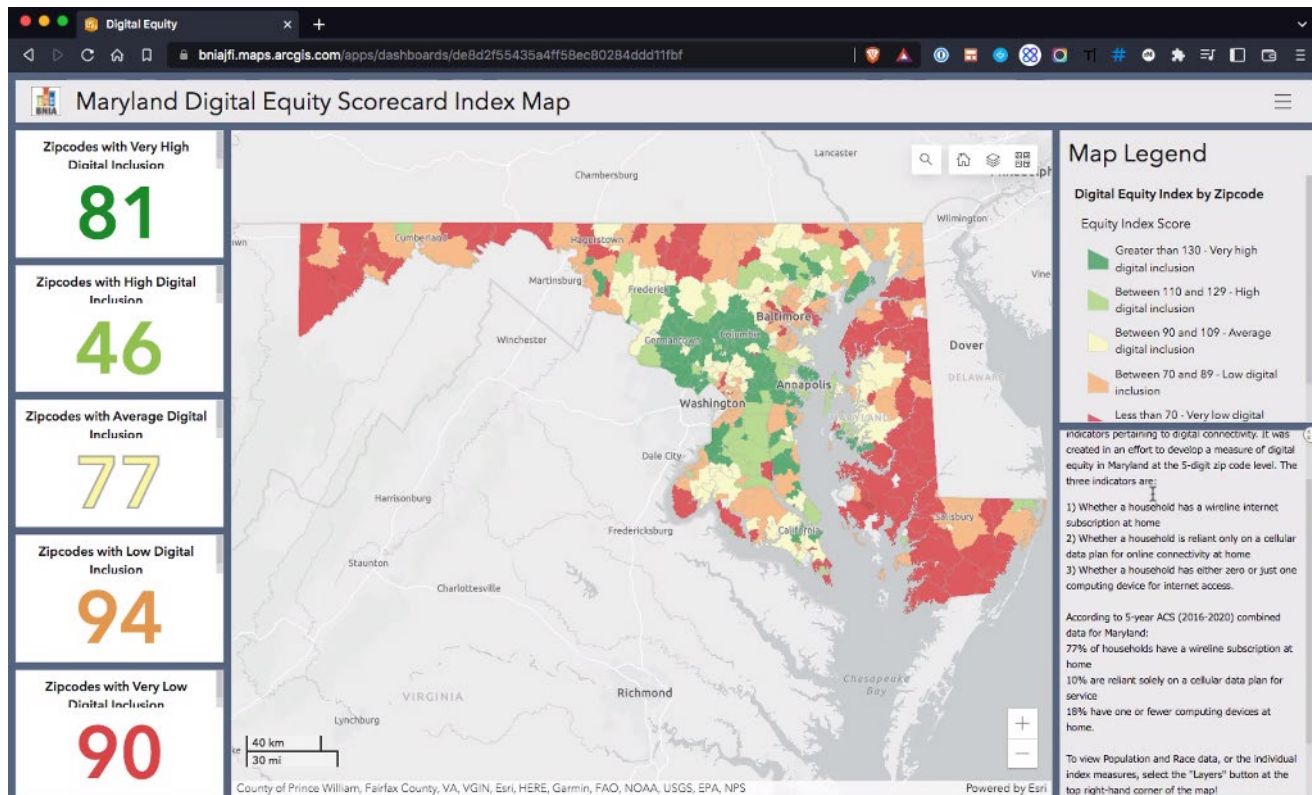
<https://www.internetforall.gov/program/digital>

-equity -act -programs

All problems are equal

Please score the following aspects in terms of their importance to realizing digital equity in your work:



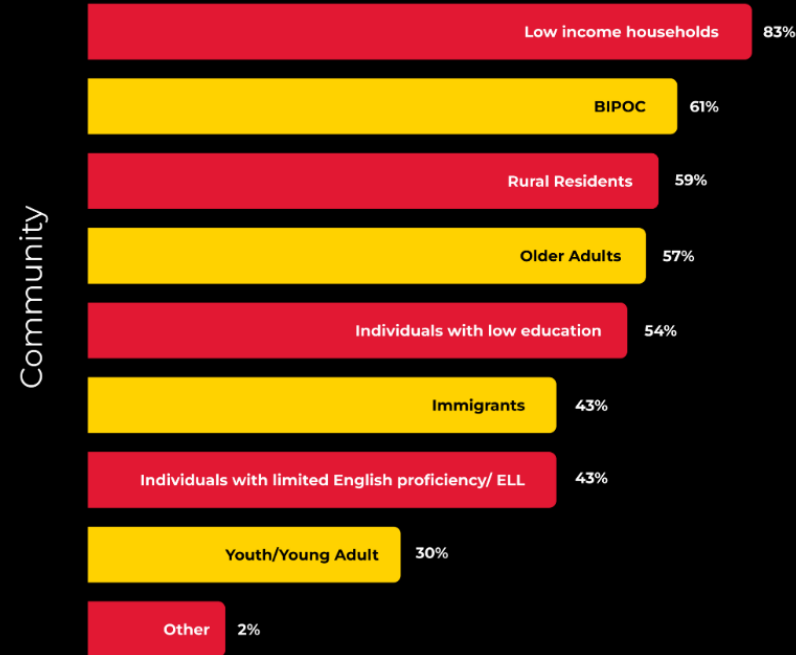


<https://bniajfi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/de8d2f55435a4ff58ec80284ddd11fbf>
 BNIA and John B. Horrigan, PhD, Senior Fellow at the Benton Institute on Broadband & Society.

The Digital Literacy team has been engaged in an in-depth needs assessment of the stakeholders working in digital literacy and inclusion in the state of Maryland. Stakeholders were interviewed and surveyed, coming from all counties in Maryland and working in public libraries, non-profit organizations, local and state governments, for-profit organizations, and others.

<https://extension.umd.edu/techextension>

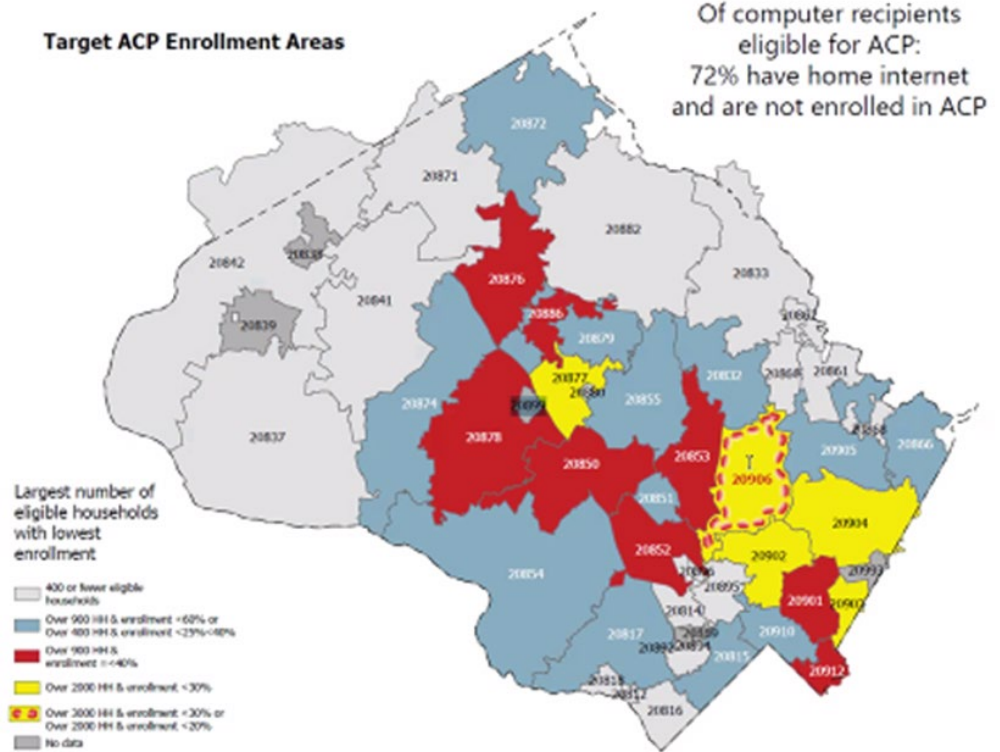
COMMUNITIES AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Percentage of Respondents

Montgomery County - stats

Courtesy of Mitsuko Herrera
Planning, Policy and Special Projects
at Montgomery County, MD



#3 — Community Engaged, Digital Mapping and Advocacy



- MD-DIG program – Digital Inclusion Program (contract is not yet awarded)
- Riverdale Park and College Park
- Survey
- Advocacy



Goal

Understand exactly what and where the digital divide barriers are, and why they exist:

1. Lack of infrastructure: last mile fiber or fixed-antennae-wireless; hardware (computers, 3G phones).
2. Granularity: little publicly available information at the *exact* address level.
3. Affordability: infrastructure is present but low-income individuals cannot afford it.
4. Quality: individual has access, but quality (speed/bandwidth) is slow.
5. Friction: signing up for direct-to-consumer benefits or negotiating better rates/service is difficult.

Survey based mapping project.



Digital Advocacy Training

November 12, 2022 (Saturday) from 10-2

Robert W. Deutsch Foundation's Vice President, **amalia deloney** – modelled from the foundation's ongoing Digital Equity Leadership Lab (DELL program). The seven-week program is designed for city residents who want to increase their understanding of the internet and strengthen their ability to advocate for fast, affordable, and reliable broadband for all.