



**NOTICE OF GRANT AVAILABILITY**  
**Saline County Digital Equity Initiative**

**Release Date: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**  
**Applications Due: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Grant Kick-Off Meeting**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**2:00 PM Central Time**

**[Zoom Link to Kickoff Meeting](#)**

## **Saline County Digital Equity Initiative**

### **Introduction:**

The Saline County Digital Equity Initiative is an ambitious project committed to fostering digital inclusivity and literacy in Saline County, Kansas. By providing grants that range from \$1,000 to \$25,000, the initiative will support projects that meet program requirements. This program underscores the urgency of bridging the digital divide, augmenting digital accessibility, and honing digital literacy skills within the community.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

- Nonprofit organizations and private businesses that facilitate access to or provide broadband or internet services or those with the capacity and expertise to do so.
- Entities that operate or provide services within Saline County.
- Applicants must abide by 2 CFR 200.
- Limit of 2 applications per organization.
- SAM (UEI) is required to receive funding and prior to obligation of funds; however, it is not needed at time of application.

### **Funding:**

The available funding (listed below) should be used to assist with project planning, development and/or implementation with a priority for projects that address geographic areas of greatest need and serve those most at-risk. These projects should at minimum address one of the program goals below.

- A total of \$100,000 will be allocated to this grant program, with a maximum grant size of \$25,000.
- 10% hard or soft match. Hard match will include cash contributions and soft match will include volunteering and donations.
- Grant funds will be distributed via reimbursement for funds already spent (unless an alternative is approved in writing).
- Applicants must provide receipts or proof of payment for reimbursement.
- Eligible projects may need budget or scope adjustments to meet grant requirements.

### **Ineligible Uses:**

- Overhead costs.
- Indirect administration costs.

### **Program Goals:**

- Projects which champion the National Broadband Project's ambitions by assisting digital equity efforts at a grassroots level in Saline County.
- Projects that stimulate collaboration among local stakeholders and organizations utilizing National Broadband Project resources to synchronize strategies and exchange effective practices.
- Projects that help bridge the digital divide by increasing access to affordable, reliable broadband internet connectivity for all Saline County inhabitants.
- Projects that bolster digital literacy and fluency skills among community members, empowering them to effectively harness digital technologies and online resources.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Digital Access and Affordability: Programs that assist in making digital devices and internet access affordable for low-income individuals and families.
- Digital Literacy and Skills Development: Funding for training programs that enhance digital literacy and skills among community members.
- Community Partnerships and Collaboration: Grants for cooperative projects promoting digital inclusivity and community development through technology.

### **Subrecipient Reporting**

The applicant will be required to sign a subrecipient agreement or contract (as applicable) prior to receiving funding. This will require retention certain records and submissions to Saline County monthly, or at such other intervals as requested, any information, documents or certifications requested by Saline County which it deems reasonably necessary to substantiate Subrecipient's continuing compliance with the provisions of all applicable SLFRF program rules, guidelines, criteria, and regulations. Reports must be submitted in such format as prescribed by Saline County. Saline County shall retain the right to change reporting requirements from time to time as it deems necessary. Specifics on reporting requirements will be provided in the subrecipient agreement and with supplementary reporting guidance.

### **Eligible Timing:**

Implementation of the project/program should not extend beyond 366 days of the date of the grant award.

### **Important Dates:**

September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Informational Grant Workshop
September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Applications posted on County website
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2023	Applicant question submission deadline
October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Responses posted on County website
October 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Applications due to the County no later than 4:30 PM
October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Grant awards announced and recipients notified
November 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Grant Agreement signed
<b>September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	<b>Any funds not expended by this date will be re-allocated</b>