ADVANCING DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES IN MARYLAND

33% of Marylanders do not have a computer

198,858 MARYLANDERS Do not have broadband and are not able to fully benefit from the economic, educational, social, health, and civic engagement opportunities that the Internet provides

18% of Marylanders do not use the Internet
(MARYLAND STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN)
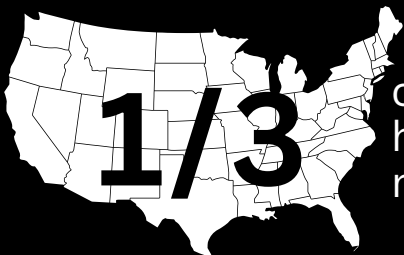
THOSE MOST LIKELY TO LACK BROADBAND ACCESS:

- Veterans
- Rural Residents
- Aging Individuals
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Racial & Ethnic Minorities
- Low-Income Households

92% of jobs require digital skills

1/3 of US workers have limited or no digital skills

On average, a worker will earn **23%** more at a job that requires at least one digital skill
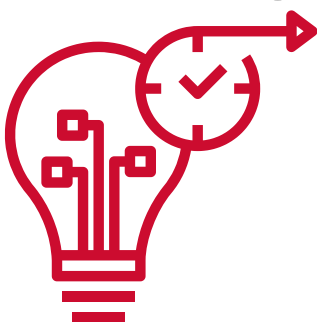(NATIONAL SKILLS COALITION)

MARYLAND'S AFFORDABILITY GAP

In 2023: 133K Chromebooks were distributed. 288K Marylanders signed up for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The state's Emergency Broadband Benefit (MEBB) program reaches 33% of eligible households by July 2023. 54% of households still lack a digital device.

In 2024: ACP sunsets & MEBB ends. Maryland's Connected Devices Program ends. 287,772 Marylanders lose ACP and broadband subsidies.

PLANNING FOR MARYLAND'S DIGITAL FUTURE

- Statewide Broadband Infrastructure
- Affordable Statewide Broadband Access
- Community Tech Refurbishment Centers
- Statewide Resource Mapping & Sharing
- Community Capacity Building
- Digital Skill Classes & Workforce Development
- Sustained Funding & Legislative Policies

HIGHLIGHTING
MARYLAND'S DIGITAL INCLUSION EFFORTS

Garrett County
- 1,527 Chromebooks distributed
- Grant funding on track to connect 2,500 homes to fiber broadband
- Awarded Connect Humanity grant to develop a Digital Opportunity Plan

Baltimore County
- Awarded $26M+ in grant funding to support broadband
- 13,600 Chromebooks distributed
- Named a 2024 Visionary Trailblazer by NDIA

Baltimore City
- 50K devices distributed
- Named a 2024 Visionary Trailblazer by NDIA
- 30 local organizations awarded $3M in Digital Equity Funds to close the digital divide

Carroll County
- 79% of addresses have access to reliable internet
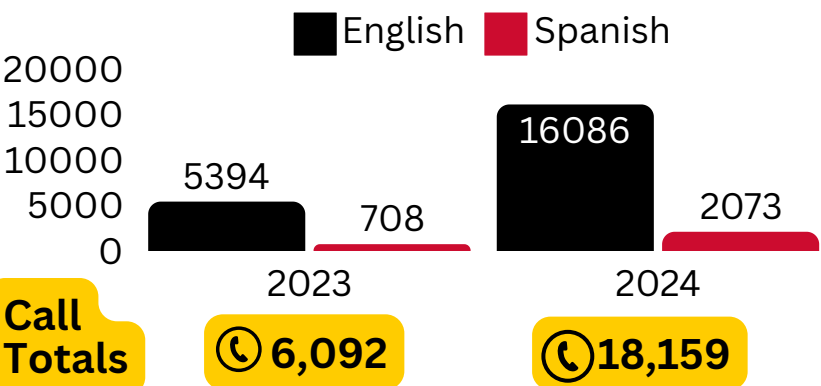- 4,000 addresses are scheduled or under construction

Montgomery County
- Reached nearly 29K residents through Senior Planet programs
- Distributed 117K laptops
- MoCo broadband expanded to 6 affordable housing developments

Southern Maryland
- St. Mary's County recognized as the #1 Digital County for its size
- Charles County distributed 5,000 Chromebook devices and has connected 98% of addresses to broadband

UME Marylanders Online Statewide Tech Support Helpline Calls

■ English ■ Spanish

Year	English	Spanish
2023	5394	708
2024	16086	2073

Call Totals: 📞 6,092 | 📞 18,159

Learn more: https://go.umd.edu/TechSupport

Scan the QR Code to learn more about the Maryland Digital Equity Coalition (MDEC). To subscribe to the MDEC mailing list, visit go.umd.edu/JoinMDEC.