



# NTIA OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO HELP COMMUNITIES BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

## **Presentation To The Minority Serving Cyberinfrastructure Consortium**

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US Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth



June 2024

# NTIA and OMBI | Overview

The Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives (OMBI) was established within NTIA's OICG in August 2021 to promote equitable broadband access and adoption at HBCUs, TCUs, MSIs, and in their surrounding anchor communities.

## OMBI's Guiding Vision

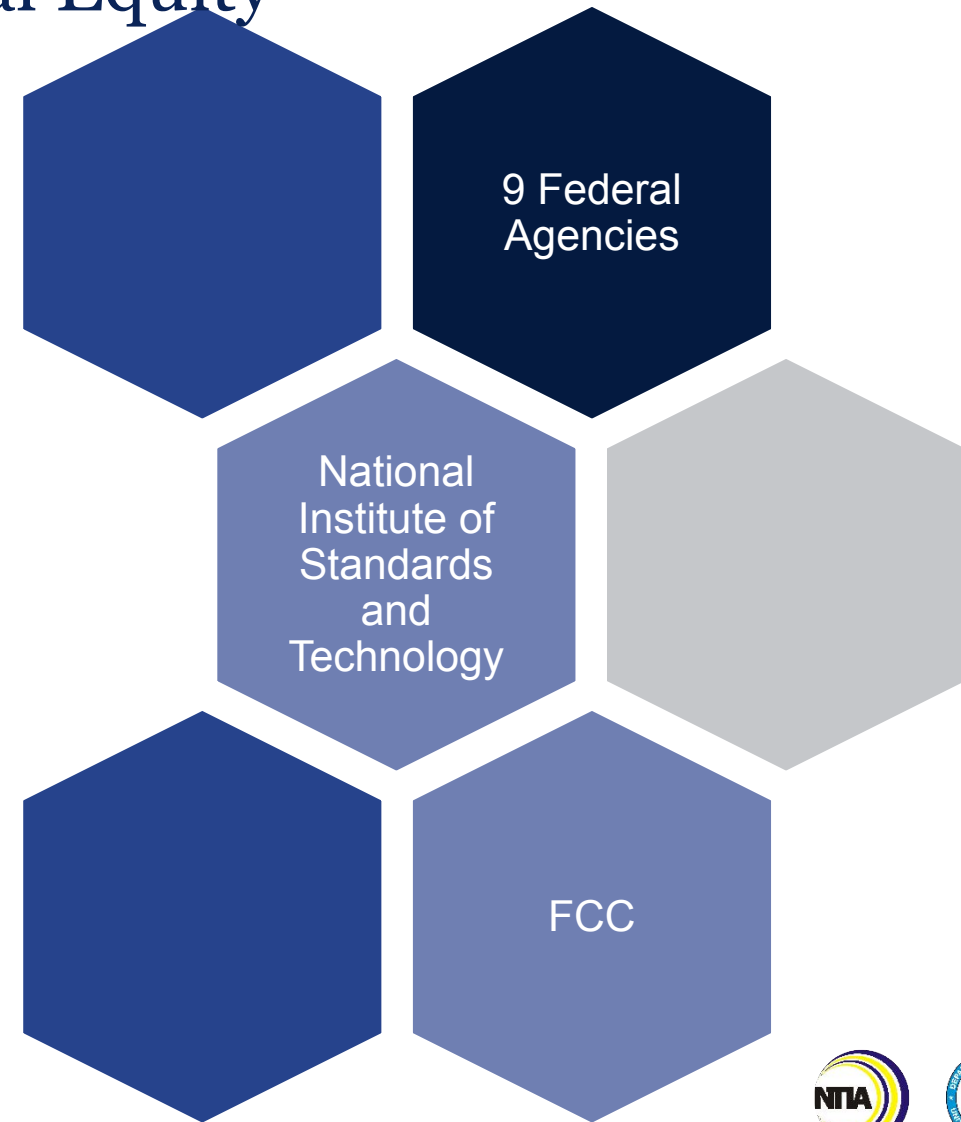
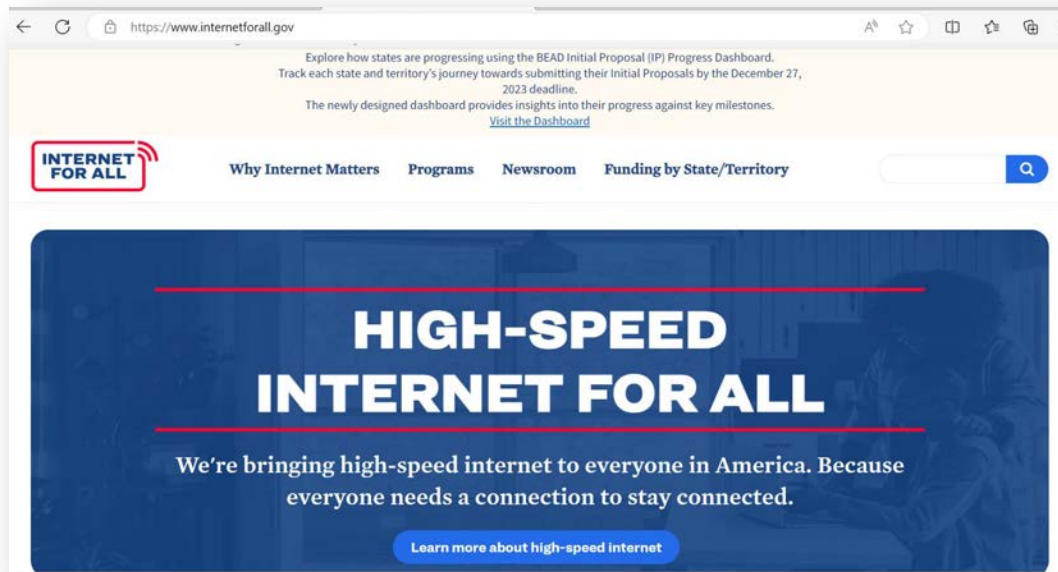
To achieve **digital equity** for minority communities across the United States by supporting and building capacity in **HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs** as catalysts for the **expansion of broadband access**.

## OMBI's Operational Pillars

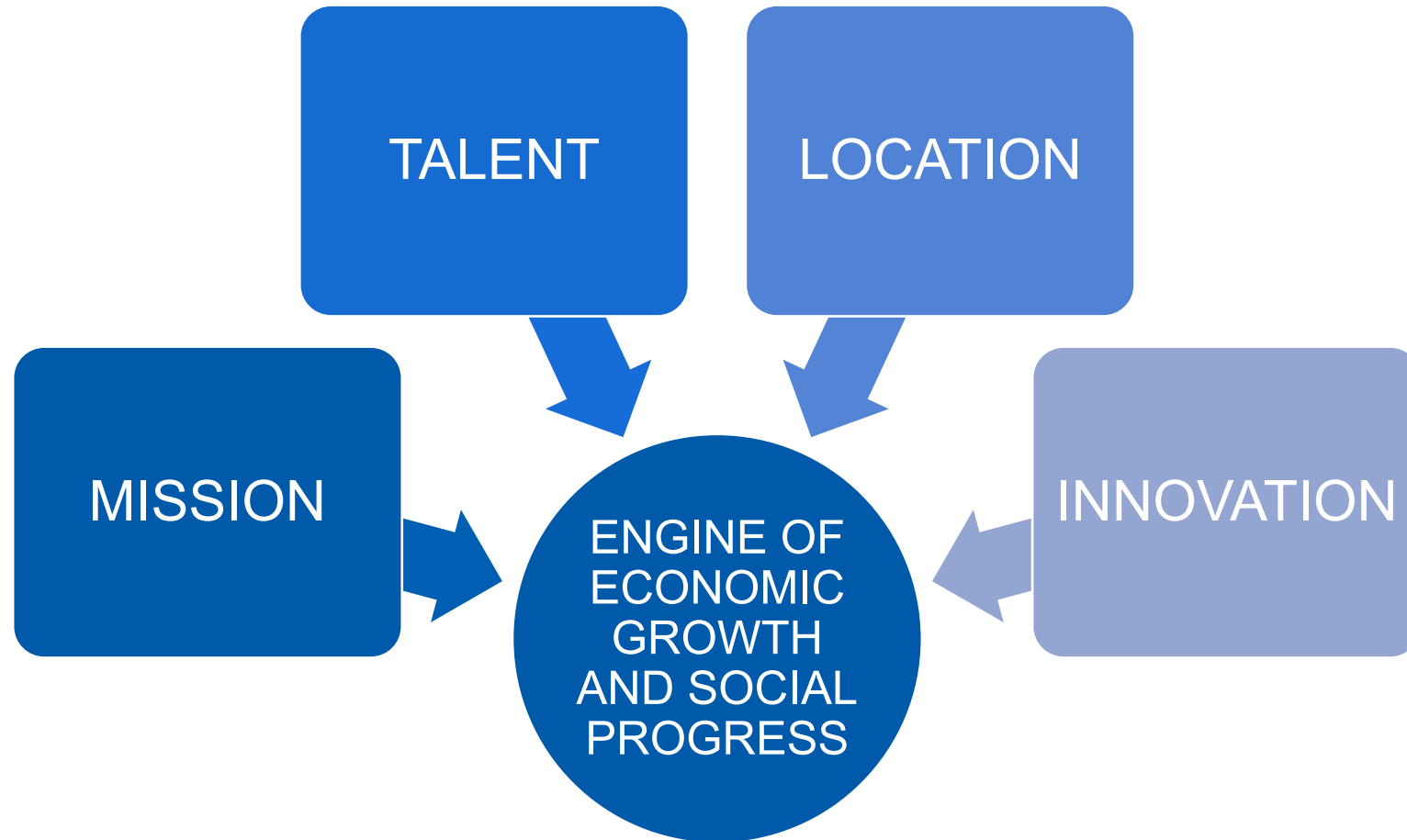
1. **Administer the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program** to provide funding for broadband access, technology, and personnel in an effort to close the digital divide at HBCU, TCU, and MSI anchor institutions and within their communities.
2. **Collaborate with Federal, State, Tribal, and Anchor Institution Stakeholders** to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and thought leadership to improve broadband access and adoption among minority communities.
3. **Build Capacity of Anchor Institutions and their Communities** by providing technical assistance to empower applicants, grantees, and collaborating entities with the appropriate tools and resources to effectively implement the CMC Pilot Program or other broadband grants in minority communities.

# Whole of Government Approach – No One Program Can Address the Challenge of Digital Equity

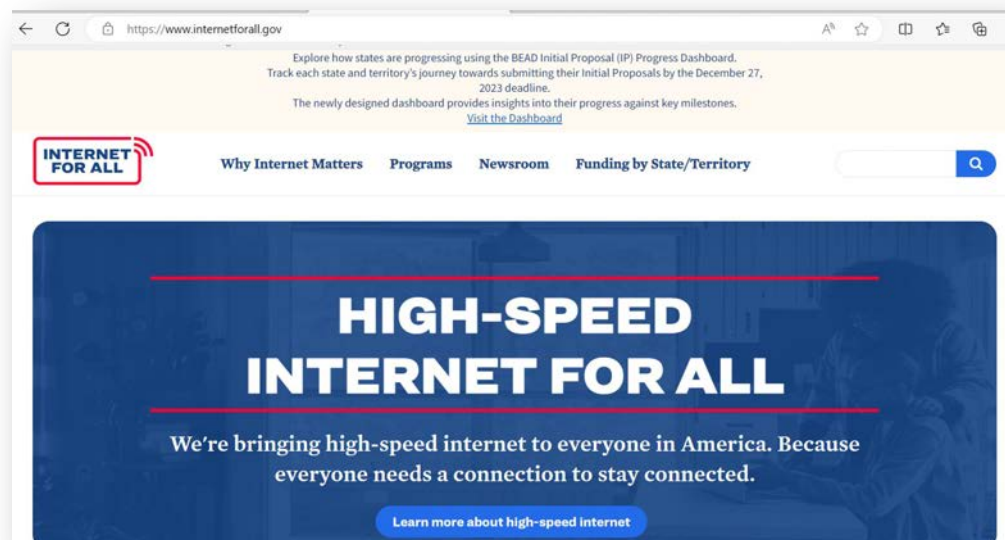
*Ensure that various federal agencies are working together to create a more inclusive and equitable landscape for all Americans*



# Colleges & Universities Bring Critical Assets, Resources, And Capabilities To Address The Digital Divide



# NTIA's Administration of the Internet for All Programs



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

## Consolidated Appropriation Act Programs

Connecting  
Minority  
Communities  
Pilot Program

Tribal  
Broadband  
Connectivity  
Program

Middle Mile  
Program

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation Programs

Broadband  
Equity Access  
and Deployment  
Program (BEAD)

Digital Equity  
Program (DE)



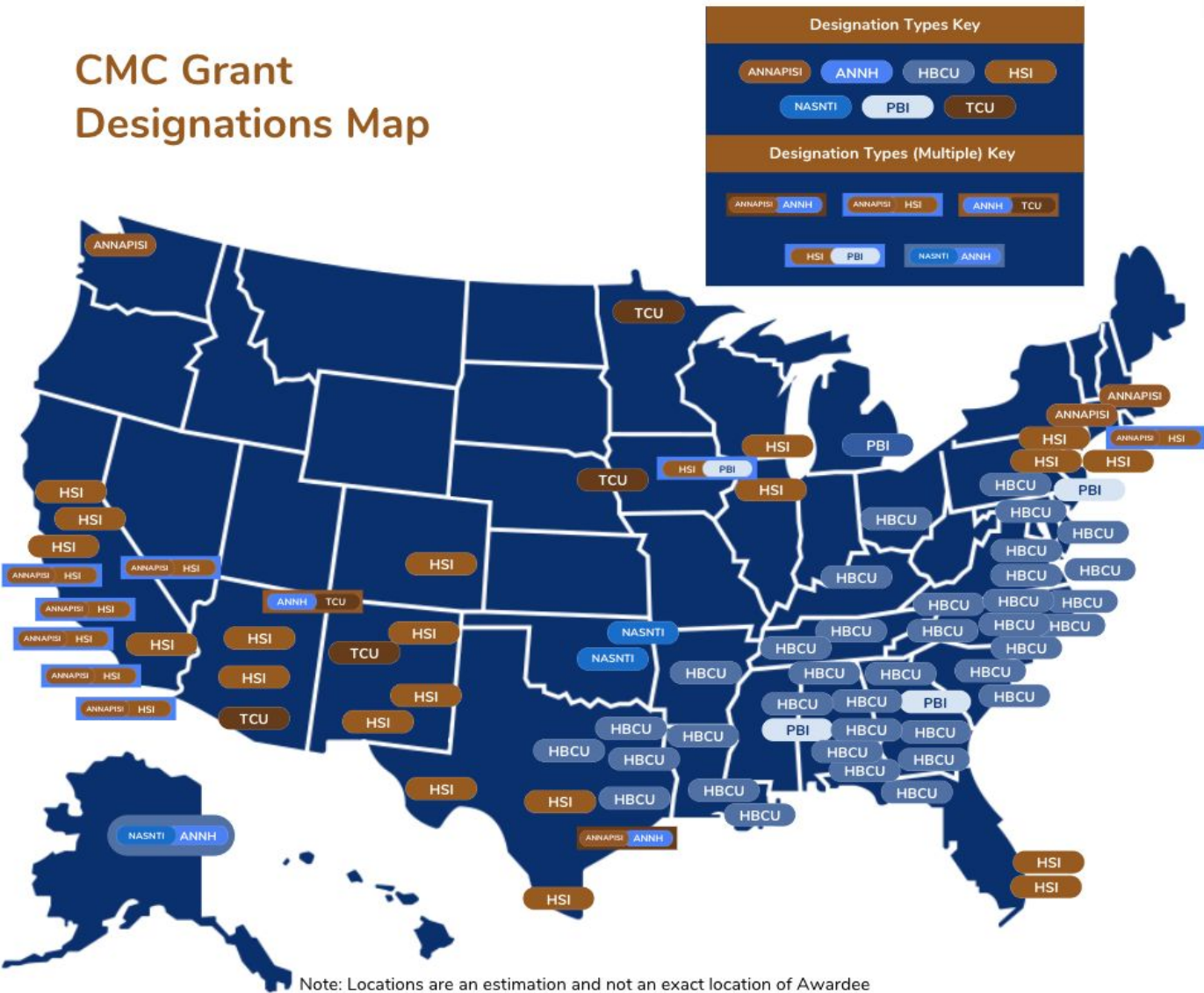
# CONNECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

93 Grants

\$268M

36 States/Territories

## CMC Grant Designations Map



US Marshall Islands\*



American Samoa\*



Micronesia\*



Puerto Rico\*

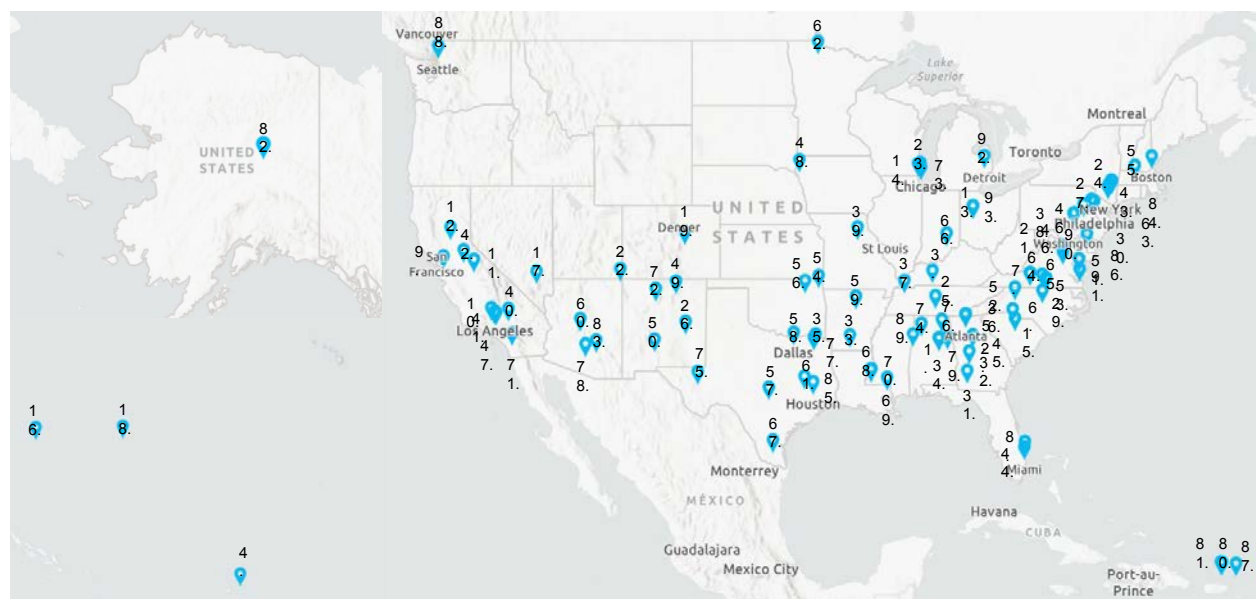


US Virgin Islands\*





# CMC Grant Recipients



1. Alabama State University
2. Albany State University
3. American Baptist Theological Seminary
4. American Samoa Community College
5. Atlanta Technical College
6. Benedict College
7. Bennett College
8. Broward College
9. Cabrillo College

10. California State University-Dominguez Hills
11. California State University-Fresno
12. California State University-Sacramento
13. Central State University
14. Chicago State University
15. Claflin University
16. College of Micronesia – FSM
17. College of Southern Nevada
18. College of the Marshall Islands
19. Colorado State University Pueblo
20. Community College of Philadelphia
21. Coppin State University
22. Dine College
23. Dominican University
24. Dominican University New York
25. Drake State Community and Technical College

26. Eastern New Mexico University Roswell
27. Eastern University
28. Elizabeth City State University
29. Fayetteville State University
30. Felician University
31. Florida A&M University
32. Fort Valley State University
33. Grambling State University

34. H. Council Trenholm State Community College
35. Jarvis Christian College
36. Johnson C. Smith University
37. Lane College
38. Lincoln University
39. Lincoln University of Missouri
40. Loma Linda University

41. Long Beach City College
42. Merced College
43. Mercy College
44. Miami Dade College
45. Morehouse School of Medicine
46. Morgan State University
47. Mount Saint Mary's University
48. Nebraska Indian Community College
49. New Mexico Highlands University
50. New Mexico State University
51. Norfolk State University
52. North Carolina A&T State University
53. North Carolina Central University
54. Northeastern State University
55. University of Massachusetts-Boston
56. Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology
57. Our Lady of the Lake University
58. Paul Quinn College
59. Philander Smith College
60. Phoenix College
61. Prairie View A&M University
62. Red Lake Nation College
63. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark
64. Saint Augustine's University
65. Shaw University
66. Simmons College of Kentucky
67. South Texas College
68. Southern University and A&M College
69. Southern University at New Orleans
70. Southern University Law Center
71. Southwestern College
72. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
73. St. Augustine College
74. Stillman College
75. Sul Ross State University
76. Talladega College
77. Texas College
78. Tonoho O'odham Community College
79. Tuskegee University
80. Universidad Ana G. Mendez, Recinto de Carolina
81. Universidad del Sagrado Corazon
82. University of Alaska Fairbanks
83. University of Arizona
84. University of Connecticut
85. University of Houston – Downtown
86. University of Maryland Eastern Shore
87. University of the Virgin Islands
88. University of Washington
89. University of West Alabama
90. Virginia State University
91. Virginia Union University
92. Wayne County Community College District
93. Wilberforce University

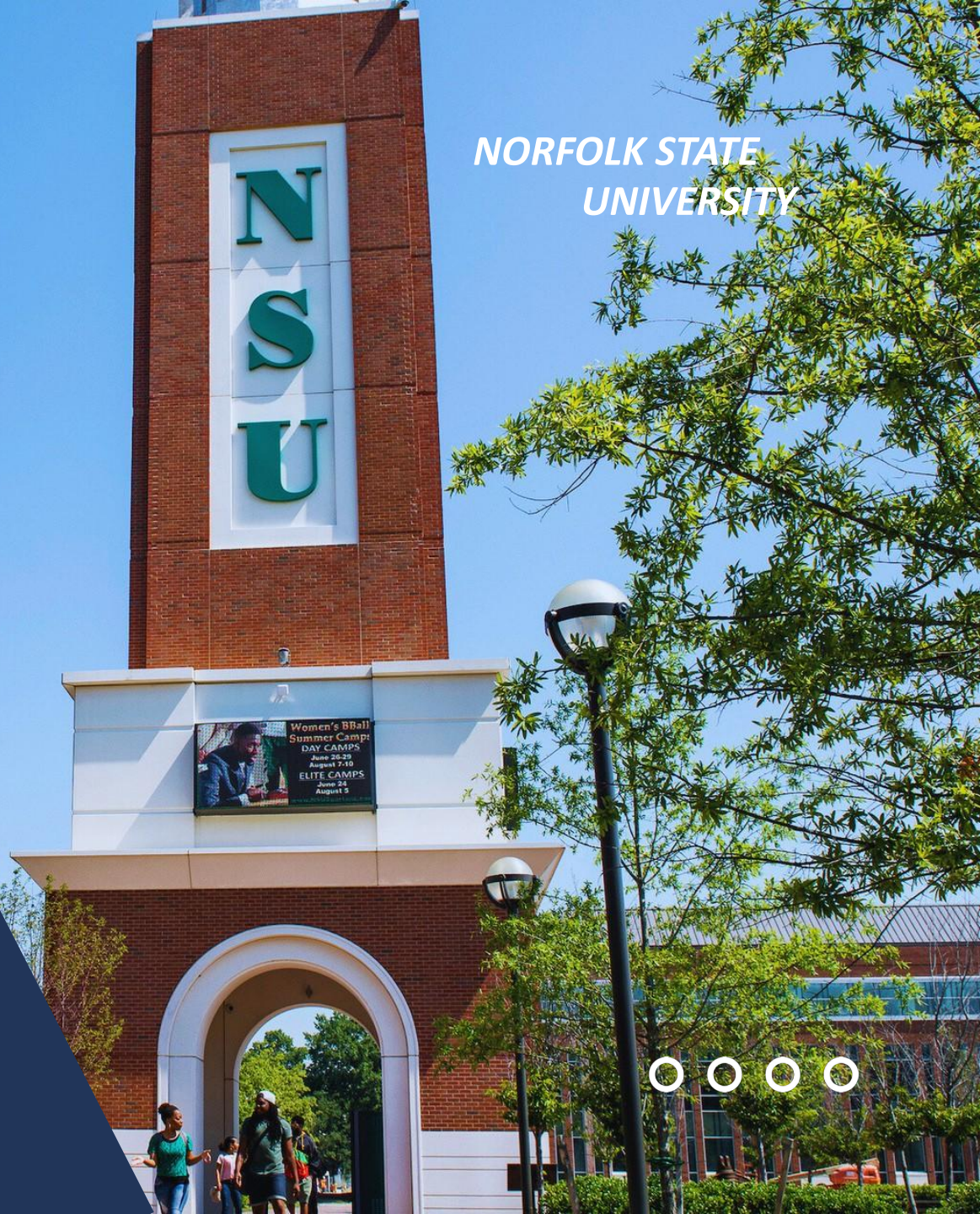
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NORFOLK STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# *SMART CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY (SMARTCOM)*

A Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Project

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# Goals

To offer a future-ready goal of a Smart Campus and Community (SmartCOM), to connect the campus and unite with the community to help those who are underserved.

## Project 1

Improving Broadband  
Access on the NSU  
Campus:

## Project 2

Creating Workforce  
Development and  
Student Experiential  
Learning  
Opportunities

## Project 3

A Broadband-  
Enabled Faith-Based  
Service Center  
offering a Digital  
Inclusion Program:

## Project 4

Expand the NSU  
Innovation Center

# NSU SmartCOM Project 1

Improving Broadband Access on the NSU  
Campus:

Building the Infrastructure to support  
broadband, providing low-cost access to  
students, and add a  
campus-wide 5G network. .



# NSU SmartCOM Project 2

Creating Workforce Development and  
Student Experiential Learning  
Opportunities

Partnering with the local school district and  
private K-12 schools.



# Project Objectives

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To prepare NSU and community students for the STEM/IT/Cybersecurity workforce by providing exposure to rigorous, relevant academic programs, involvement in extracurricular STEM/IT and cybersecurity activities, participation in workforce development activities through internships and externships with MBEs and 501c3 consortium members, and the integration of students into research activities at Norfolk State University.

To provide more career experiences via the Spartan Techs and Graduate Tech projects.







## NSU CMC Pilot Project 3: Anchor Community Adoption

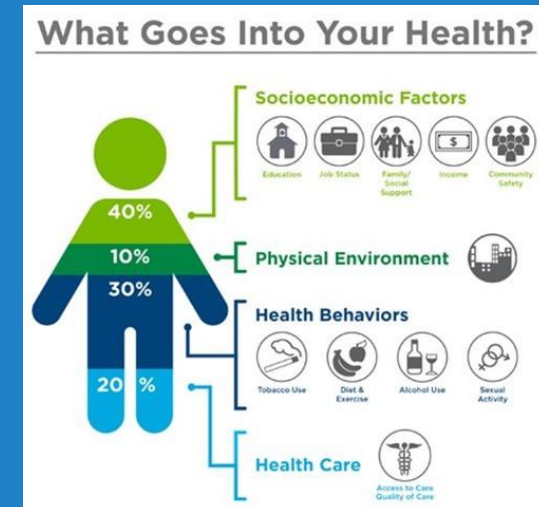
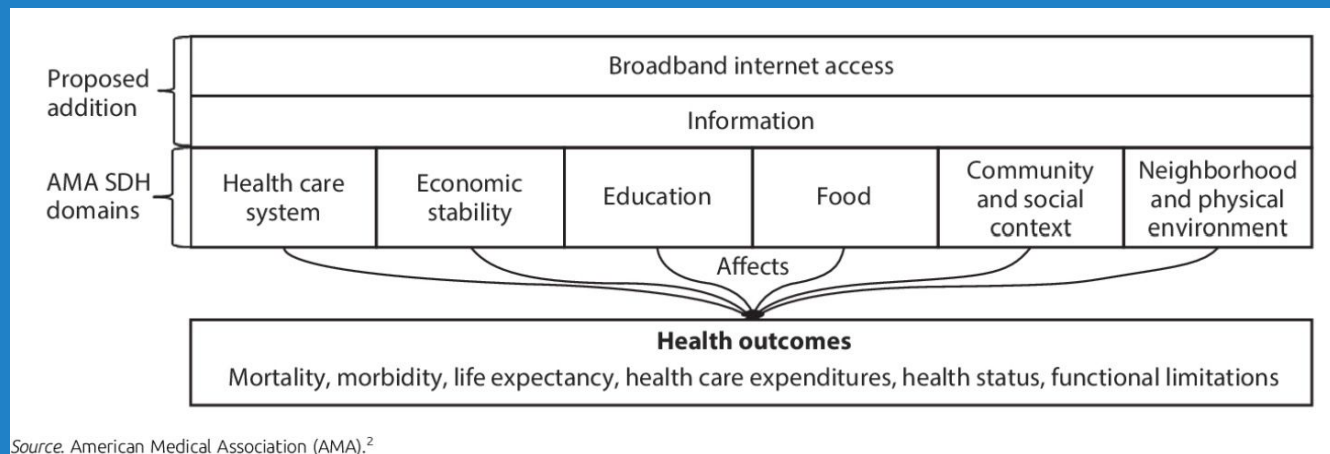
SMARTECH  
NEXUS

[smartechnexus.org](http://smartechnexus.org)

# ○ The Call To Action:

**Broadband connectivity has become a super “social determinant of health (SDH).”**

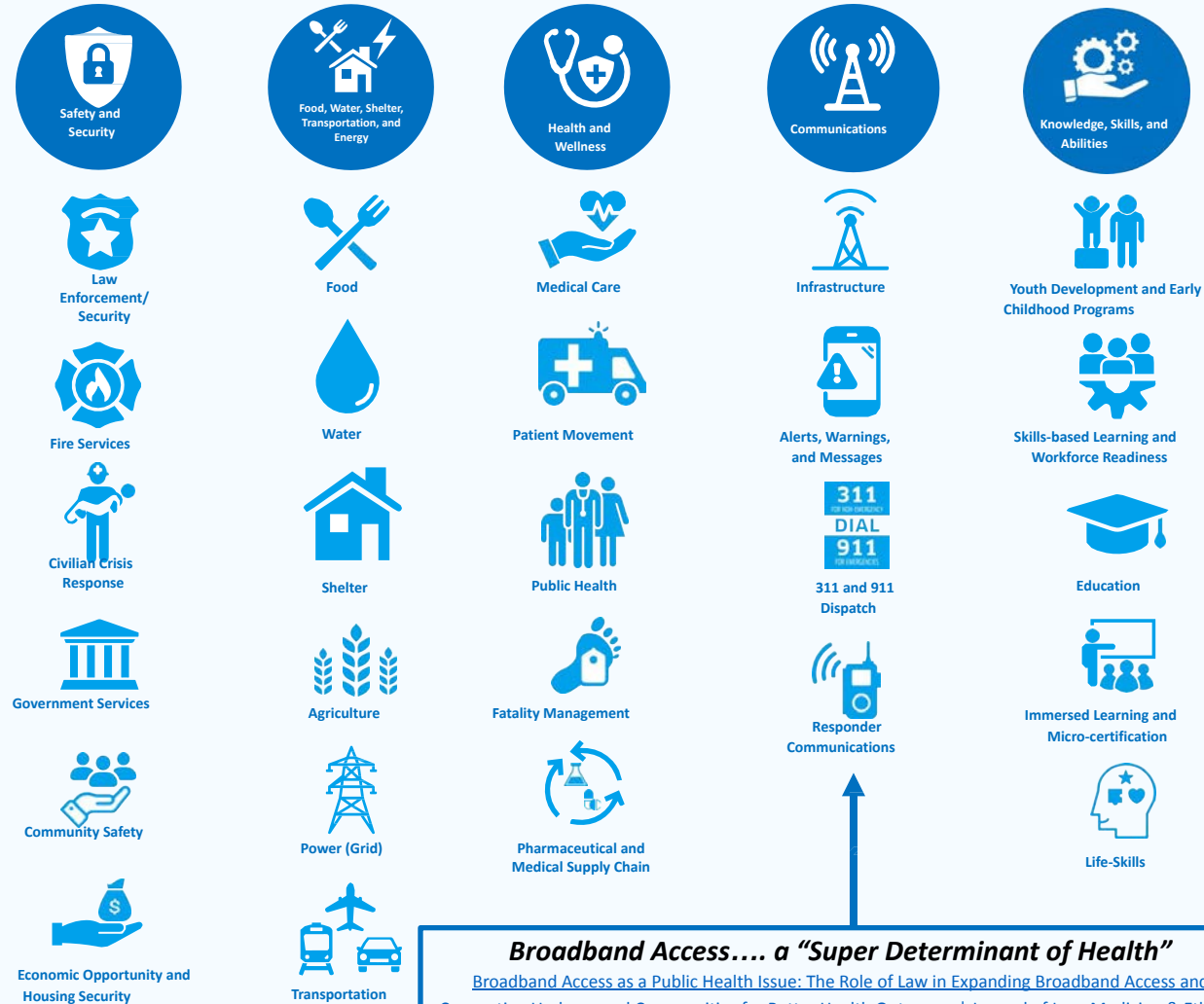
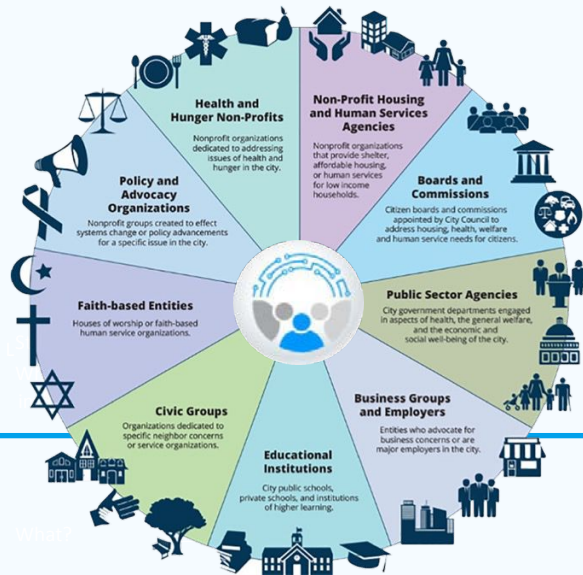
- COVID-19 deepened our understanding of the relationship between broadband access, health outcomes, and subjective wellbeing in communities across the country.
- Community anchor institutions (CAIs) are a convener for expanding access to broadband and critical services (e.g., SDH domains).



# Community1st Lifelines

**Community1st Lifelines:** provide the resources to support and sustain the quality of community life. We emphasize the mutually dependent relationship between communities and traditional service providers. Through broadband access, we seek to elevate the essential role that faith-based and community organizations play in providing social connections and meeting the needs of residents.

**The multitude of implementation partners continues to be a barrier to achieving systemic change.**



## ***Broadband Access.... a "Super Determinant of Health"***

Broadband Access as a Public Health Issue: The Role of Law in Expanding Broadband Access and Connecting Underserved Communities for Better Health Outcomes | Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics | Cambridge Core

# NSU SmartCOM

## Project 4

**Project 4:** Expand the NSU Innovation Center:  
Use broadband to increase the training services  
offered to entrepreneurs and MBEs in the  
Norfolk area.





# Project t Objective s

During 2019 and 2020, the NSUIC impacted over 1,000 entrepreneurs. Increased broadband capacity will help to improve the quality of service as we strive to reach more MBEs. In addition, it will also allow us to expand our territory as we focus on these strategic targets:

**Cultivate Innovation: Help Entrepreneurs Launch and Grow** by expanding our consulting and mentoring programs and strengthen our incubation programming.

**Target – 100 businesses**

**Expanding our website to include on-line advising resources.** Visitors looking to discuss an idea, discover tools and techniques to fast track a venture, or practice a pitch, can browse profiles of NSUIC staff advisors to discover a good fit and schedule a 15- minute or 30-minute introductory session via a web-based platform (e.g., Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc.) Data capture on the number of contacts, meeting subject and outcomes can be documented and stored using a combination of scheduling software (e.g., Schedulicity) and a cloud-based server for research purposes.

**Target – 75 businesses**

**Expanding our website to include on-line expert resources.** Providing clients access to a network of experts (i.e., serial entrepreneurs, CPAs, attorneys) to gain valuable knowledge and support. Clients can browse profiles of NSUIC partnered experts and select the right match based upon expert type, industry, or area of expertise. Once matched, clients may schedule a 1:1 meeting (via a web-based platform) with their expert of choice to address specific areas of interest. NSUIC nurtures the development of key external partnerships while connecting clients with business experts to aid in business growth and development.

As a part of inclusion on the site, our experts would need to utilize our online portal for scheduling and meetings so we can capture data on the number of referrals, meeting subject matter, outcome, and next steps (if applicable).

**Target – 75 businesses**



## Virginia State University

Connecting Minority Communities



Award Amount: \$2.8M

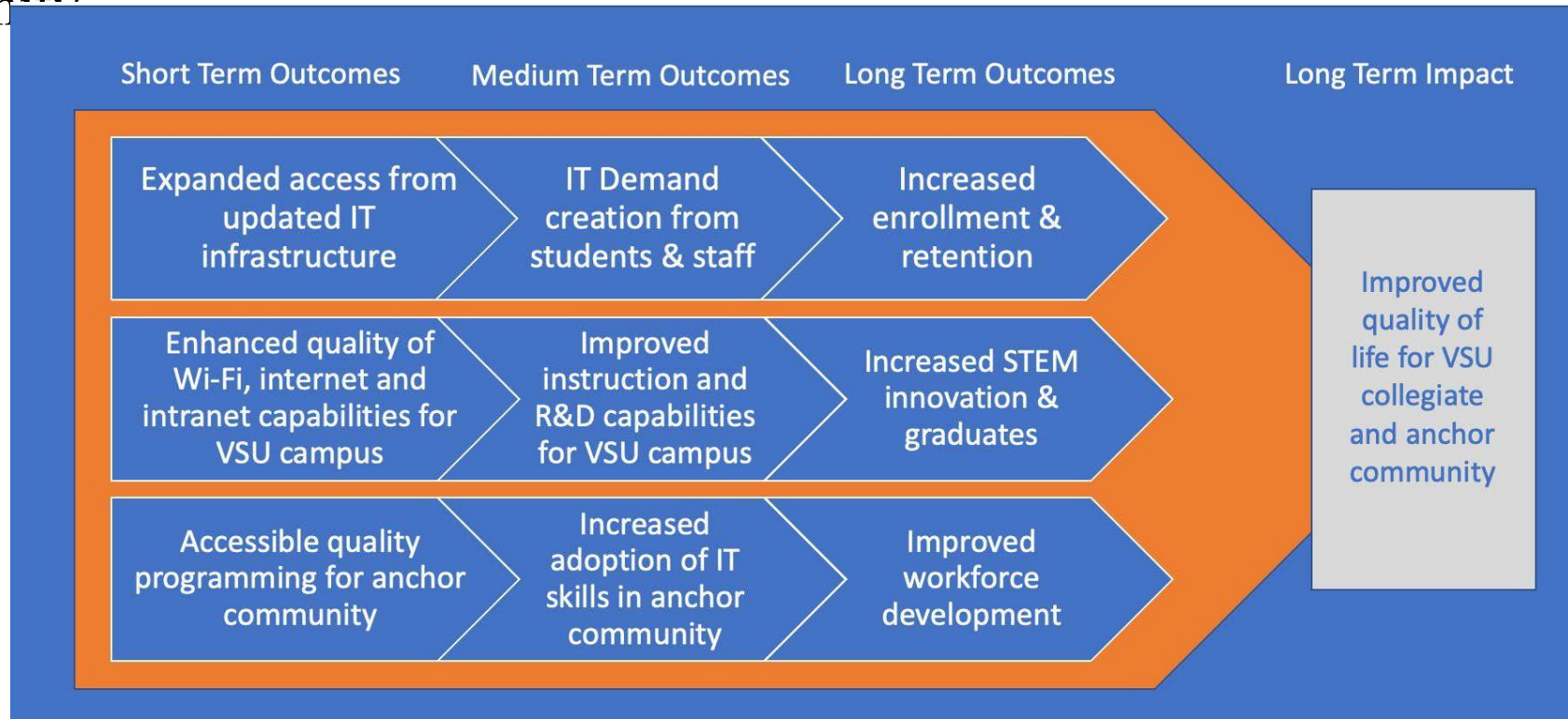
Award Date: March 1, 2023

Petersburg, VA



## Two overarching Goals

- Improve broadband infrastructure on VSU's campus, and
- Enhance digital inclusion services at VSU and in the surrounding anchor community



## Broadband Network Updates

Campus broadband improvements:

Campus-wide Wi-Fi improvement work has been in progress and several residential and academic buildings were switched to the new WLAN.

Reply Reply All Forward  
Wed 8/23/2023 9:01 AM  
Technology Services Announcements  
Quad II Wi-Fi WLAN Update  
To All Students; Faculty; Staff



**Attention: Virginia State University Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration!**

Great News! We are thrilled to announce the **cutover of Residence Hall QUAD II** to VSU's new leading-edge technology **WIFI Local Area Network (WLAN)**, which enhances student's connectivity (coverage) and transforms the digital experience.



Beginning this **Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM** and completing by **10:00 PM**. The new WLAN cutover will provide Wi-Fi **connectivity (coverage) from any location in the Residence Hall** with no less than three bars at the worst. After this connectivity issue is resolved, bandwidth and performance is forthcoming. Thank you for your patience.

VSU Information Technology Services provides the campus community services and support for a greater experience with technology.

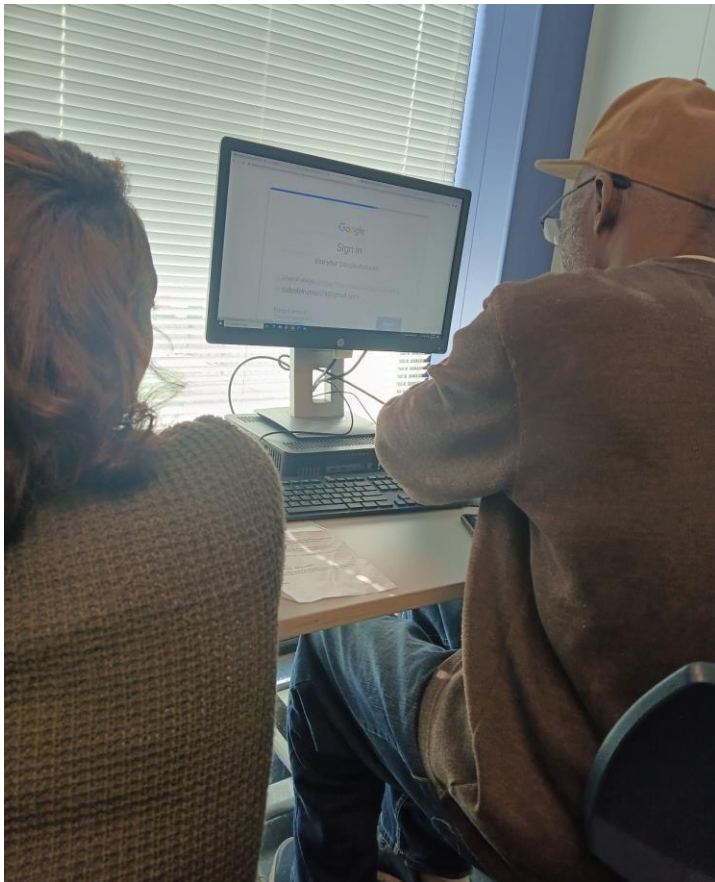


## Community Digital Literacy and Counseling Services



PRHA public housing - a senior-living facility. VSU students have actively engaged with residents in North Star courses focused on fundamental digital skills. Cover various topics - email proficiency, social media navigation, utilization of online career search tools, telehealth practices, and basic internet usage.

## Community Digital Literacy and Counseling Services, cont'd



- Twelve student interns from Virginia State University have been recruited and trained to assist in the Digital Navigation training sessions.
- 10 refurbished internet-enabled laptops were purchased for the Digital Navigator Program training.
- Conducted 4 digital skill-building workshops with a total of 30 participants.
- Over a third of those digital learners have received certifications in the modules for Basic Computer Skills, Emails, Career Search Skills, and a few additional basic skills.



VIRGINIA UNION  
UNIVERSITY

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

Award Amount: \$2.9 Million

Award Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Richmond, VA



# Objectives

## ***Objective 1: Campus Network Infrastructure Upgrade***

- datacenter, bandwidth, Wi-Fi, Cat-6 cabling, and Core

## ***Objective 2: Workforce Development***

- Provide digital upskill training in cybersecurity
- Provide career simulator built to prep for Information Technology





# IT Updates



- 102 Lenovo ThinkPad Laptops procured
- 50 laptops were put aside for program participants, the rest (52 laptops) were deployed for staff.
- Upgraded Dedicated Internet Access circuit to 10gb
- Upgraded structured cat-6 cabling in Phase I buildings
- Replaced 39 edge switches and existing core router
- Hired two IT technicians & one Program Manager

# Digital Skills Offerings



- **Instruction and Curriculum (Vinod Chachra IMPACT Lab)**
  - ***Micro-course*** – 5-8 hour introductory class on digital skills
  - ***CBIT-101***: 3hr credentialed course (8 weeks) that details the basics and necessities of cyber security
- **Workforce Training (Maxx Potential)**
  - ***Career Lab*** – perform hands on problem solving, gain insights on careers in tech, and ask questions!
  - ***Internship Simulator*** – The simulator provides a safe environment for participants to learn through experience and challenge. This includes real-world scenarios that are consistent with relevant, engaging teams with tasks and challenges which which exceed risk tolerance of most workplace environments.
- **CompTIA Security +**
  - VUU's CMCPP will provide the opportunity for program participants who've completed the CBIT-101 course, to prepare and take CompTIA's Security + exam.



# Contact Information

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# THANK YOU

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