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# ACP Trusted Messenger Grant



## Information Session

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- What is Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)?
- Who is eligible for the ACP?
- What is a Trusted Messenger?
- Questions

# Background

COVID-19 illuminated a digital divide and disparities in access, affordability, connectivity and navigation in electronic devices.

Digital Equity as a **basic need** alongside housing, food, and access to healthcare.

Launched Connectivity Blueprint following CARES funded Workforce Solutions and Saint Paul and Ramsey County Libraries collaboration.

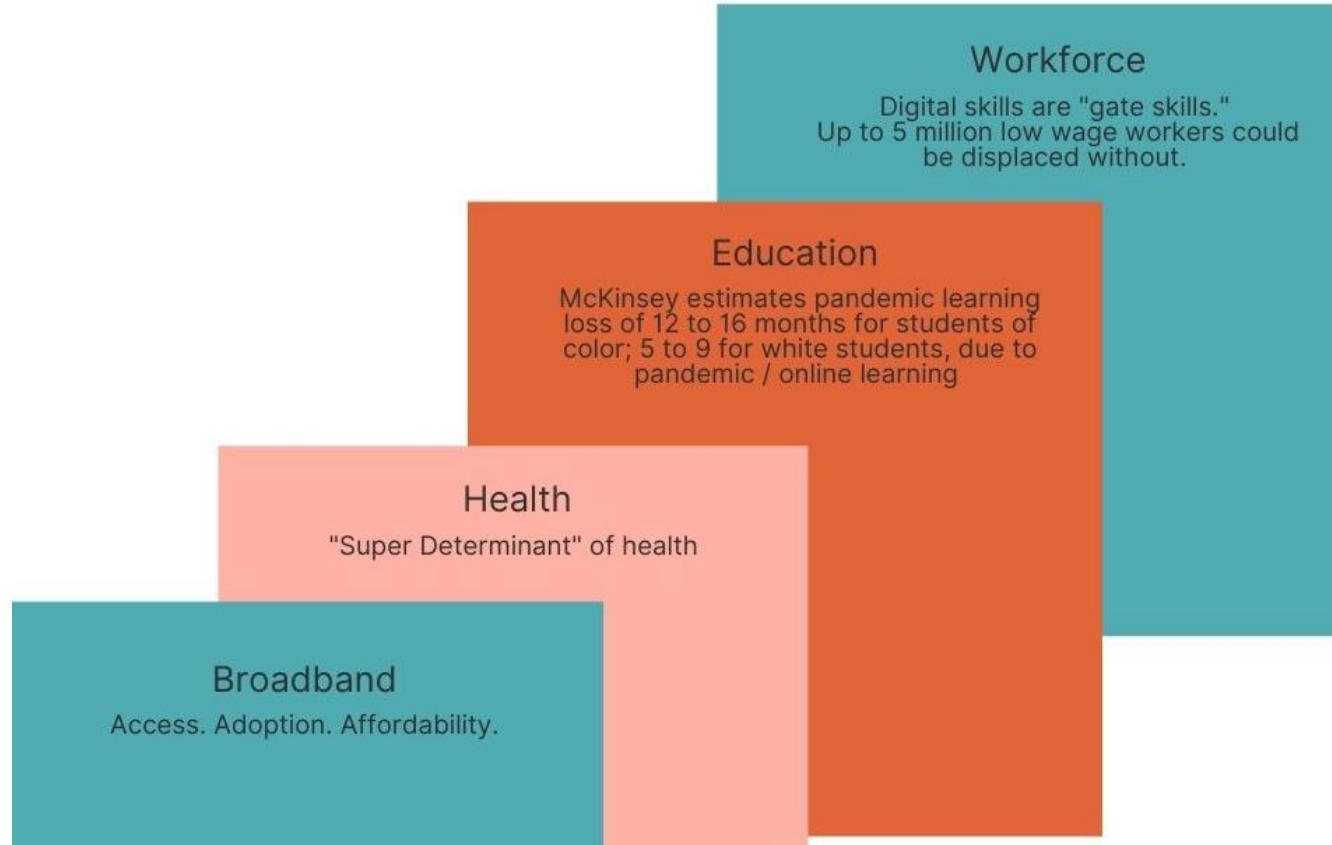
American Rescue Plan Act funded by the city of Saint Paul and Ramsey County. The initiative is led by Ramsey County, Saint Paul and a steering committee of experts.

Aimed to create a community-guided roadmap to digital equity through understanding the current policy context and community perspectives on digital equity in Ramsey County and Saint Paul.

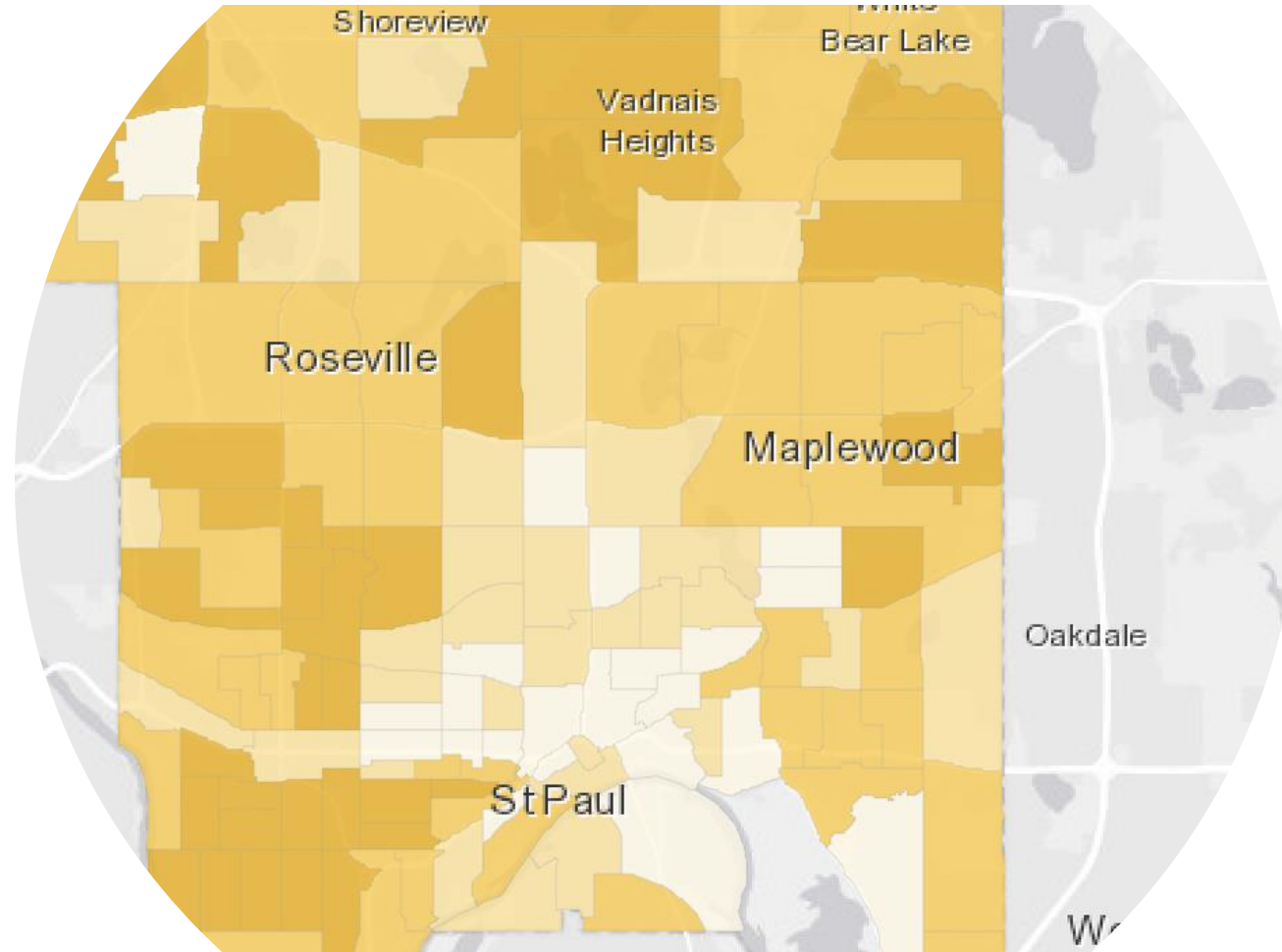
## Legal Note

- Nothing said today is legally binding (including answers to questions)
- Questions asked today will not be included in RFP addendum responses until formally submitted
- Encourage submission of questions asked today

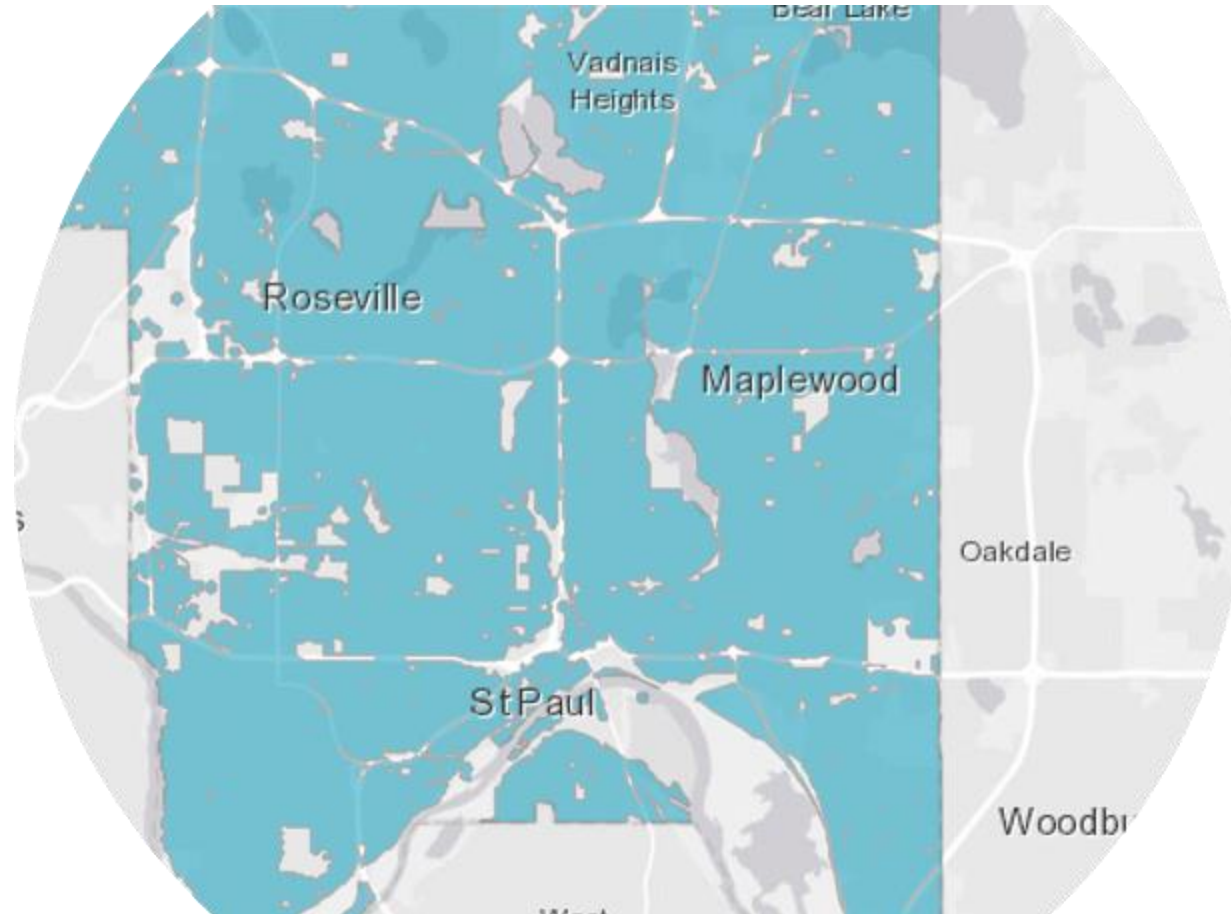
# Digital Inclusion Is The Foundation of An Equitable Future



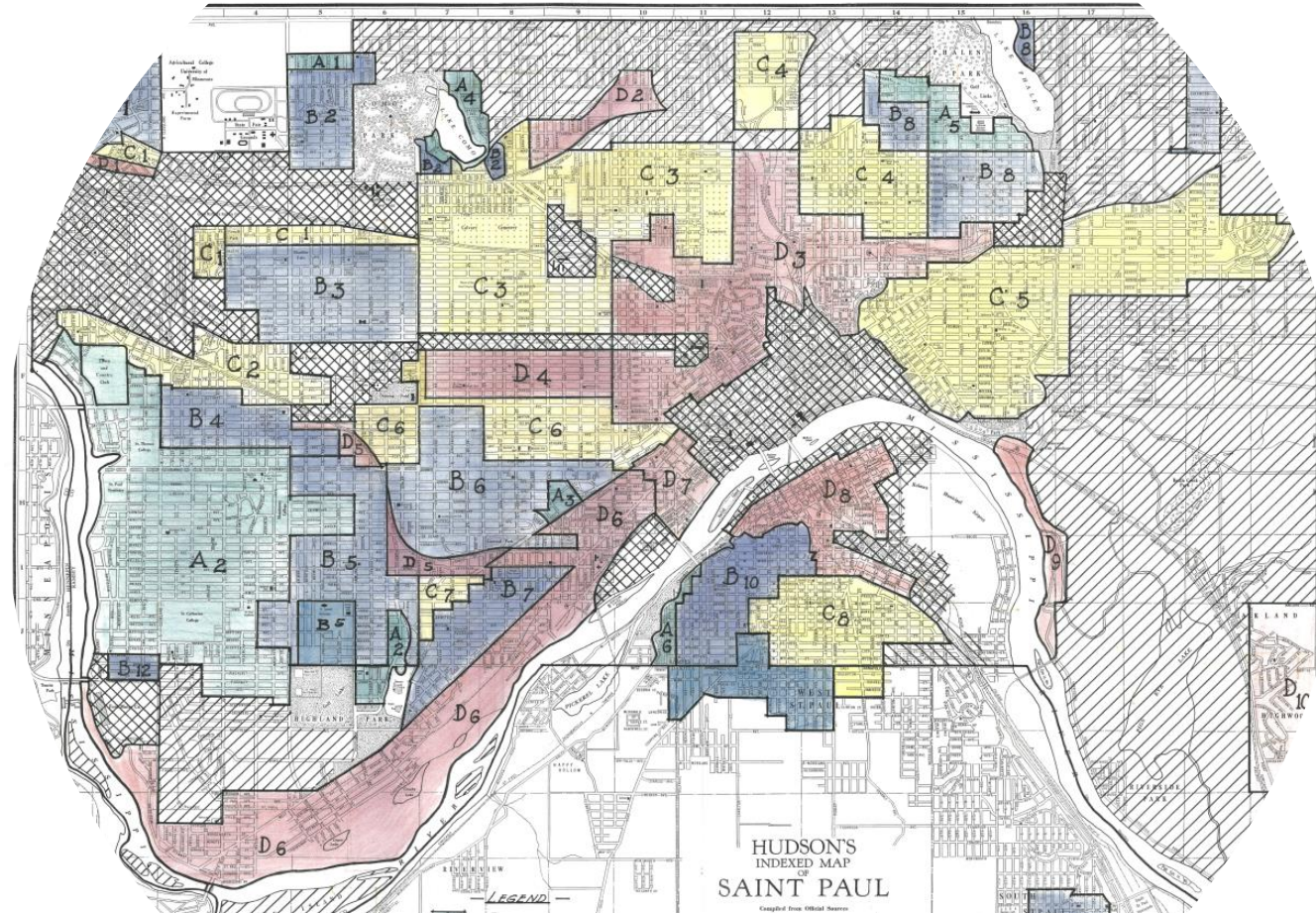
# Digital Inequities Are Driven By Systemic Inequities With Deep Roots



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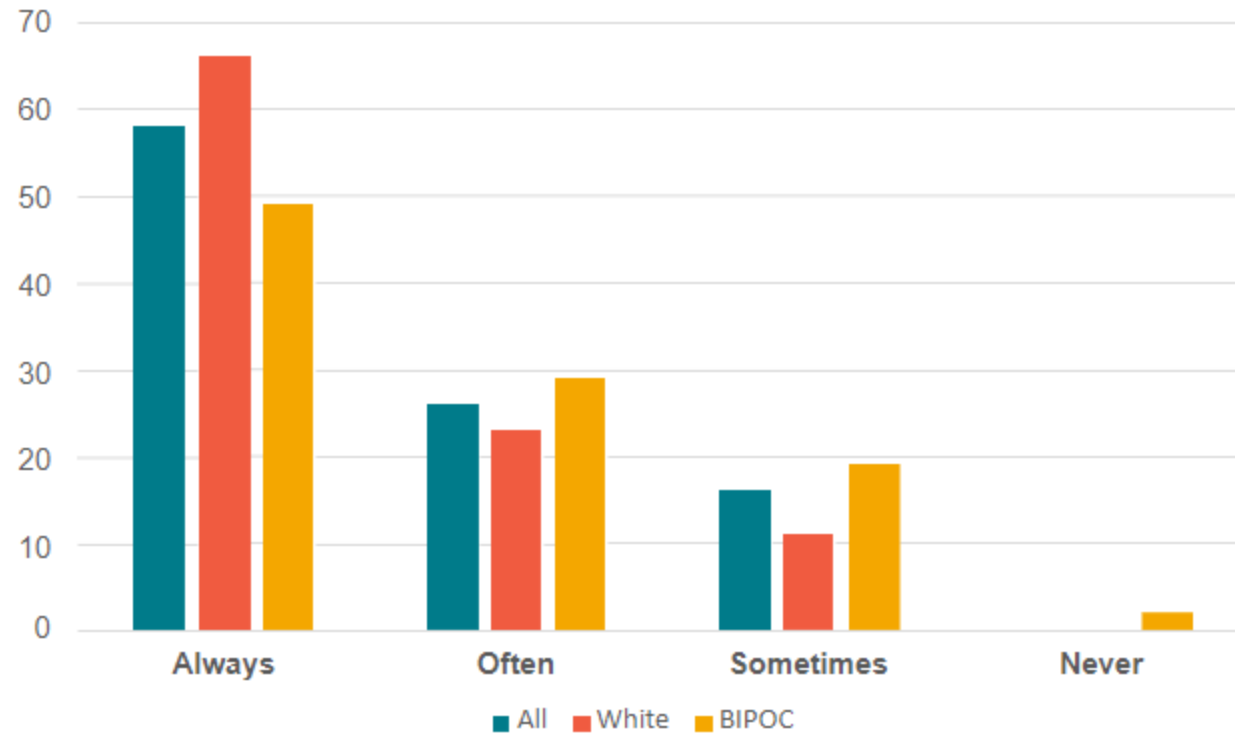
# Digital Inequities Are Driven By Systemic Inequities With Deep Roots





# The Digital Divide In Ramsey/St. Paul Is Felt Today

How often do you have the technology and internet access needed to participate in online life as much as you would like to?



## ACP Trusted Messenger Grant



## What is ACP?

A federal program that helps eligible households get the high-speed internet they need for work, school, health care and more.

### Eligibility

- Income at or below 200% of Fed Pov. Guidelines (e.g., household of 4 = \$60,000)
- Gov't assistance program participation
- Lifeline
- Other provider programs

### Enrollment

- [Getinternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov)
- Connect benefits (Service plan & devices)

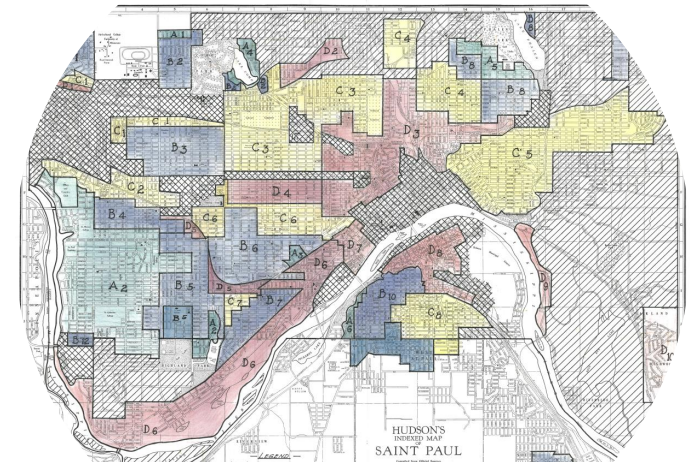
# ACP Eligibility

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least *one* of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
  - Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Eligibility Provision schools.
  - SNAP
  - Federal Housing Assistance, including:
    - Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8 Vouchers)
    - Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)/Section 202/ Section 811
    - Public Housing
    - Affordable Housing Programs for American Indians, Alaska Natives or Native Hawaiians
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - WIC
  - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
  - or Lifeline;

# Trusted Messenger Eligibility

- Trusted community organizations, culturally specific organizations, faith-based organizations, social service organizations, community nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, or community clinics.
- Focus on organizations/groups that provide community assistance to zip codes: 55103, 55104, 55106, 55107, 55119, 55130.
- Contractors must have state or federal recognition



## About

### As an ACP Trusted Messenger, you will

- **Facilitate relationships, support ACP awareness and enroll** historically underserved community **members** in the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- Utilize ACP and county branded materials and create some of your own.
- Organize at least **one tabling event per month**.
- **Track** community member ACP program **enrollment**.
- **Report progress** to Ramsey County Digital Equity Coordinator through regular meetings.

# Mutual Benefit

## Increase ACP Awareness & Participation

By working together with the eligible households most in need of affordable connectivity, Ramsey County and Trusted Messengers can:

- Increase residents' access to the digital job pipeline, medical appointments, personal finances and much more.
- Deepen partnerships with those who traditional county outreach efforts have missed.



## County – Vendor Relationship

- Your success is our success!
- Expectation that vendors will engage with WFS
- Regular TA & support from Ramsey County
- Participation in coordinated events, webpages or digital presence, or other activities in partnership with the County
- Program & fiscal expectations
- Other reporting as requested by the County

# The Application Process

- Applications Submitted
- Applications Reviewed
- Awards Granted
- Funds Distributed
- Next Steps
  - Timeline for tabling
  - Locations of services
  - Communications support

Schedule	
<a href="#">Information Session</a>	Oct. 4 at 2 p.m
Questions due	Oct. 9 at 2 p.m
Answers to questions posted	Oct. 12
Applications due	Oct. 27 at 4 p.m

Submit the application to  
Ramsey County Procurement  
at [Expenditure.grant@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:Expenditure.grant@co.ramsey.mn.us)



# Questions

Submit written questions to [karen.bollinger@ramseycounty.us](mailto:karen.bollinger@ramseycounty.us) by **October 9, 2023**

Answers to all questions will be provided by October 12, 2023 on our website: [ACP Grant Program](#)

- Karen's phone: 651-266-8077

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