



# B R O A D B A N D & D I G I T A L E Q U I T Y

STATE OF ALASKA & THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION



# WHAT IS THE STATE BROADBAND OFFICE?





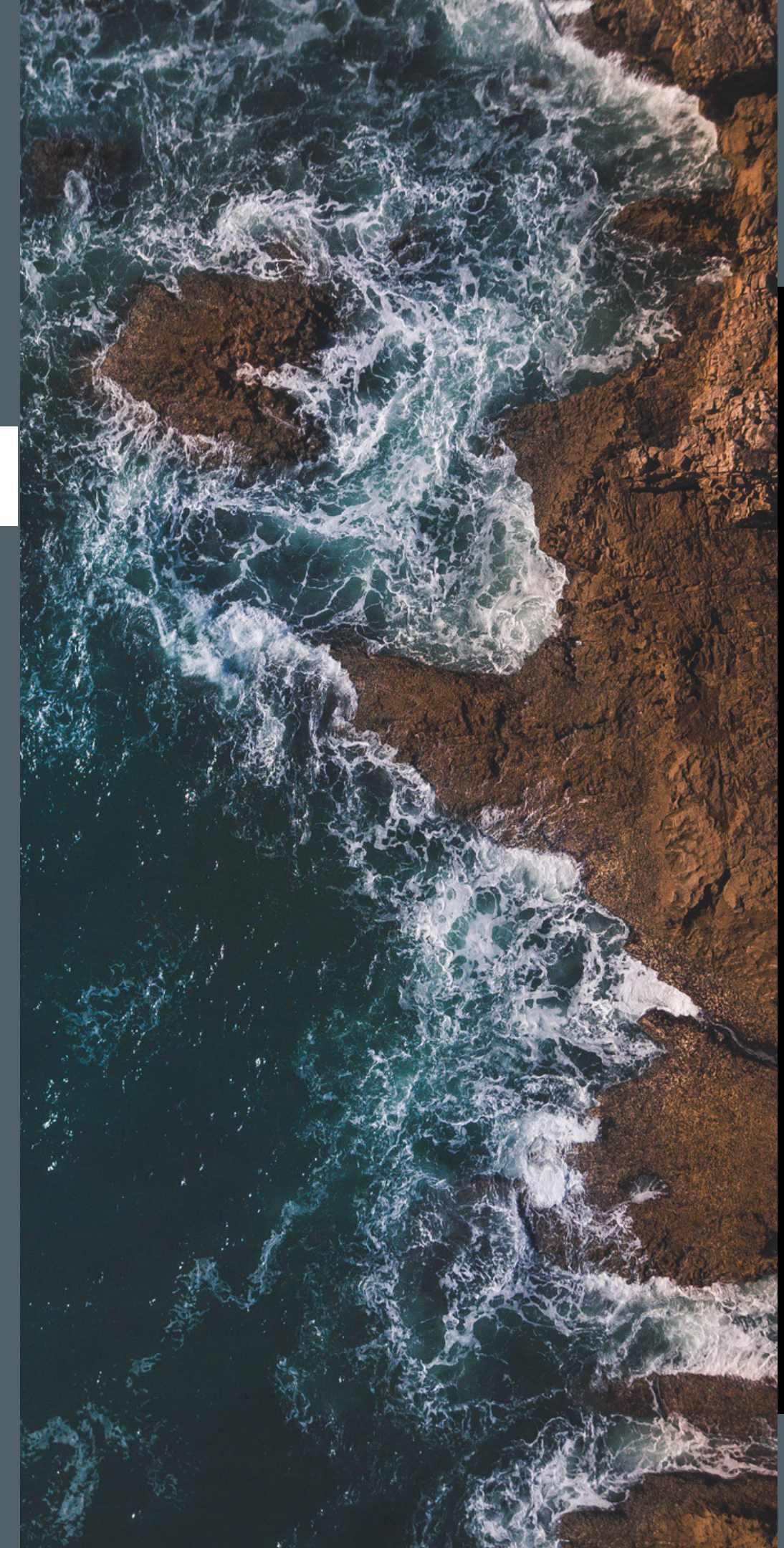
# WHY A RASMUSON BROADBAND INITIATIVE?



# THE BROADBAND INITIATIVE GOALS

TO PROVIDE ALL ALASKANS...

- ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED, RELIABLE BROADBAND
- AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
- THROUGH AN EQUITABLE AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS
- THAT ENGAGES COMMUNITIES, AND
- RESULTS IN A STRONG GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE THAT ENSURES PROGRAMMATIC GOALS AND BENEFITS ARE REALIZED







# DIGITAL EQUITY

## WHAT IS DIGITAL EQUITY?

The condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.

*-National Telecommunications and Information  
Administration*





# THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT

**PROVIDES DIGITAL  
SKILLS TRAINING**

AND EDUCATION TO LOW  
INCOME GROUPS

**IMPROVES ONLINE  
ACCESSIBILITY**

OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR  
INDIVIDUALS WITH  
DISABILITIES

**EMPOWERS RURAL  
COMMUNITIES**

TO MEASURES AND ADDRESS  
THEIR OWN BROADBAND  
NEEDS



# THIS PLANNING WILL LEAD TO IMPLEMENTATION

Each State will identify barriers to digital equity in the State and strategies for overcoming those barriers.

NTIA will distribute Digital Equity Capacity Grants through states and national competitive grants.



A photograph of the U.S. Capitol dome at night, illuminated with warm lights, and its reflection in the water in front of it. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds.

**\$400 - \$550  
MILLION**

**AVAILABLE IN  
FEDERAL FUNDS FOR  
ALASKA BROADBAND**





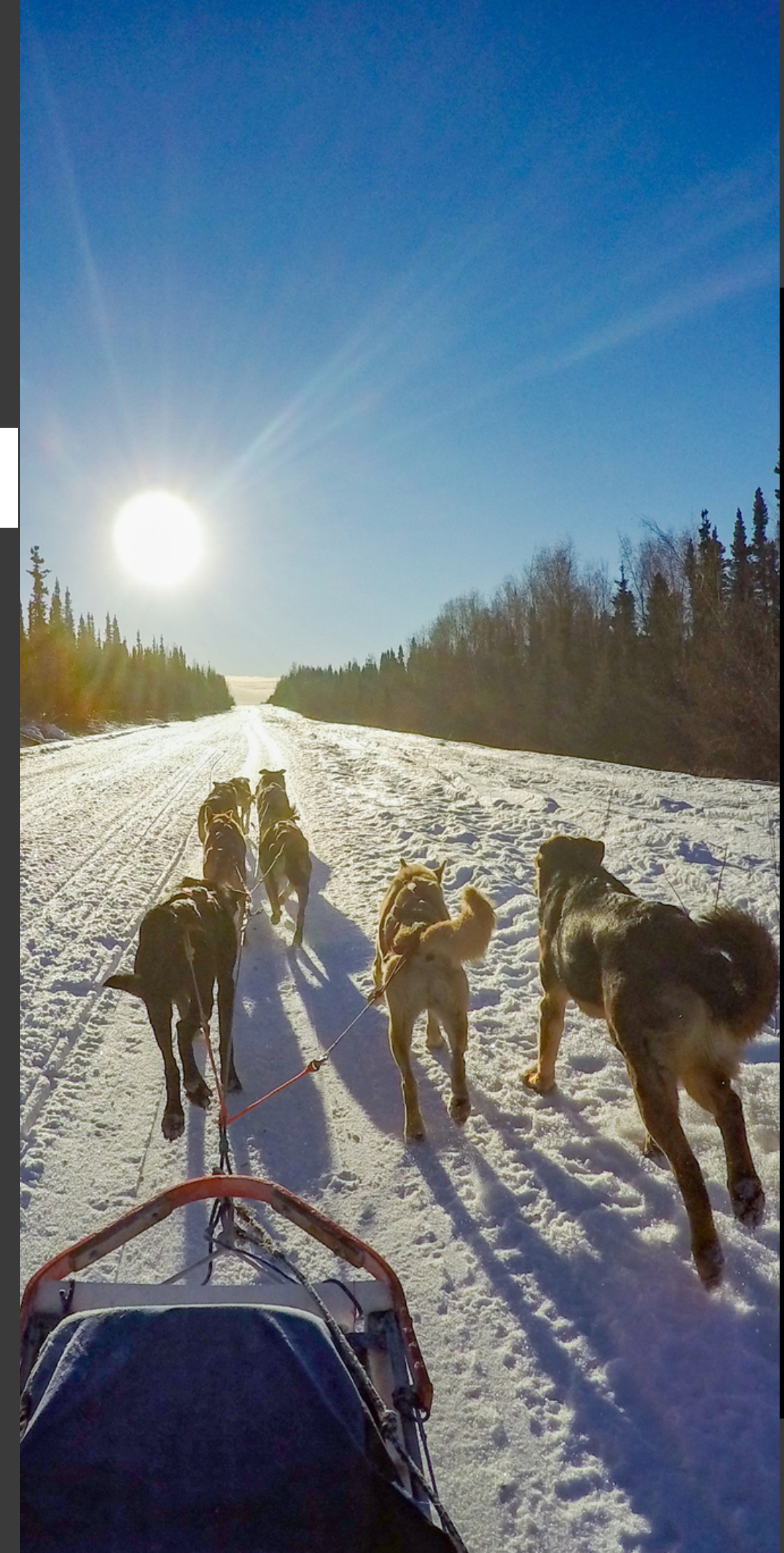
# COVERED POPULATIONS

- **LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS (AT OR BELOW 150% OF THE POVERTY LEVEL)**
- **INDIVIDUALS AGED 60 OR OLDER**
- **INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS, OTHER THAN THOSE INCARCERATED IN A FEDERAL FACILITY**
- **VETERANS**
- **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**
- **INDIVIDUALS WITH A LANGUAGE BARRIER**
- **MEMBERS OF A RACIAL OR ETHNIC MINORITY GROUP**
- **RURAL ALASKANS**




# ALASKA'S DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN WILL INCLUDE:

- A STATEWIDE VISION FOR DIGITAL EQUITY
- A DIGITAL EQUITY FRAMEWORK AND SCORECARD
- PLANS FOR DIGITAL LITERACY INNOVATION PROGRAMS
- PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY-RELATED APPRENTICESHIP OR OTHER WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES
- INTEGRATION WITH THE STATE'S UPCOMING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH OUTCOMES, AND CIVIC AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
- ACTION STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN





The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half features a close-up of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) in shades of green and blue against a dark sky. The bottom half shows a wide, snow-covered road at night, illuminated by a warm, orange glow from a light source off-camera, with a forest of snow-laden trees in the background under a dark sky.

# DIGITAL EQUITY

PART OF THE STATE BROADBAND PLAN

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN  
+  
TRIBAL DIGITAL EQUITY PLANS  
+  
STATE BROADBAND PLANNING  
=  
STATE FIVE-YEAR  
BROADBAND ACTION PLAN



# THE PLANNING PROCESS



## LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND

- Outreach to covered populations
- Data collection and analysis
- Other planning efforts

## CONSIDERATION

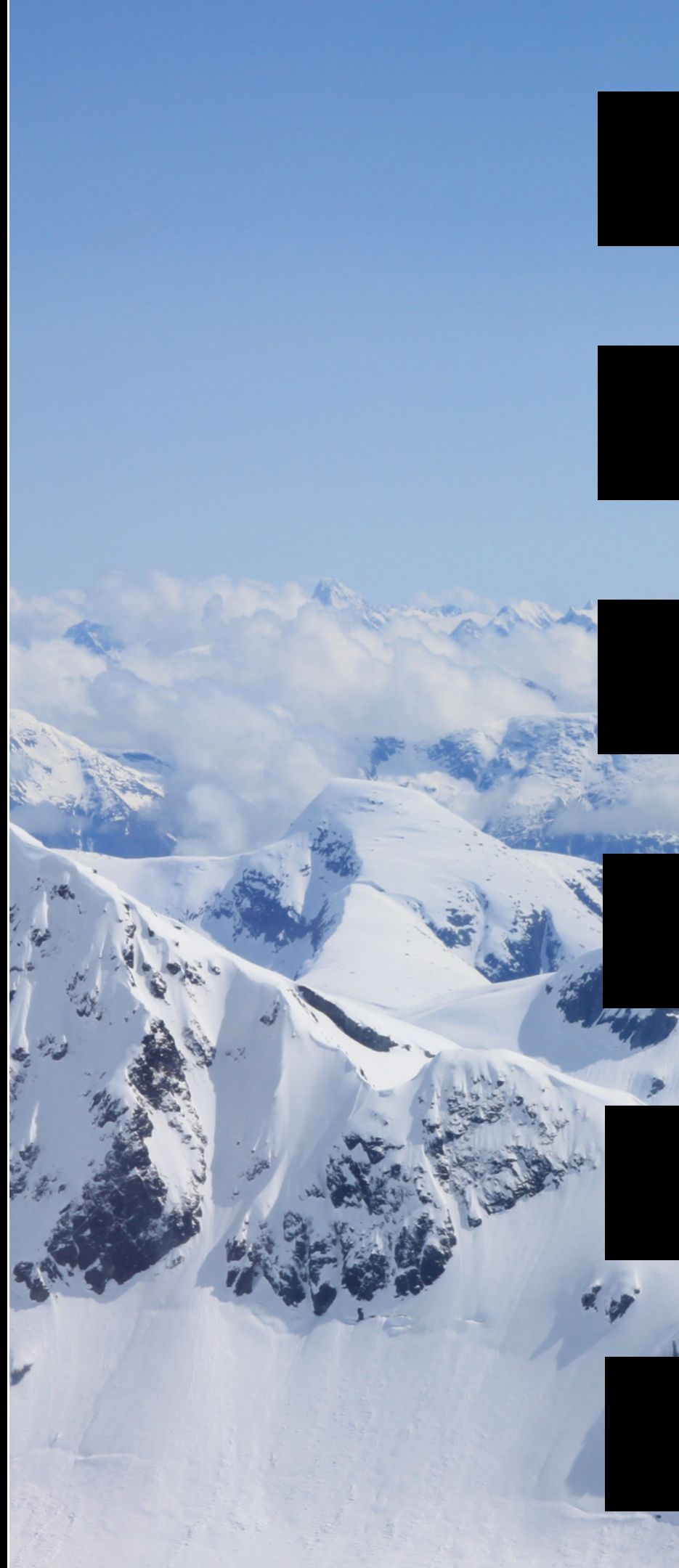
- Strategies that respond to identified needs and gaps
- Consult with a diverse Digital Equity Working Group

## REFLECTION

- Draft Alaska's Digital Equity Plan & Receive Public Comment from Alaskans
- Prepare for Implementation Efforts



# STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS



**LISTENING SESSIONS WITH KEY POPULATIONS (IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL)**

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESSES**

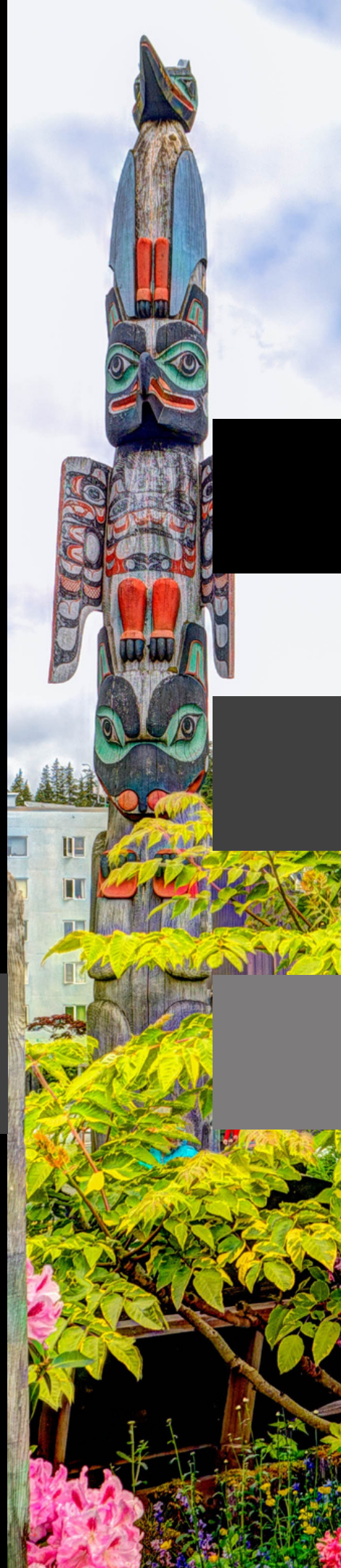
**SOCIAL MEDIA, EMAIL, AND OTHER MEDIA TO RAISE AWARENESS**

**LOCAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS TO HELP DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION AND HOST LISTENING SESSIONS**



# LISTENING SESSIONS



## **PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEWIDE**

Traveling to covered populations across the state to ensure participation.

## **OCTOBER 2022 - JULY 2023**

The majority of listening sessions will take place in Fall 2022 through Spring 2023

## **ATTENDANCE AT REGULARLY SCHEDULED EVENTS**

Covered populations and key stakeholders



# ENGAGEMENT TOUR

WE ARE TRAVELING TO  
22+ HUB COMMUNITIES IN 2023

Cordova

Mat-Su

Nome

Kotzebue

Dillingham

Bethel

Anchorage

Fairbanks

North Pole

Delta

Healy

Kenai Peninsula

Glenallen

Juneau

Ketchikan

Sitka

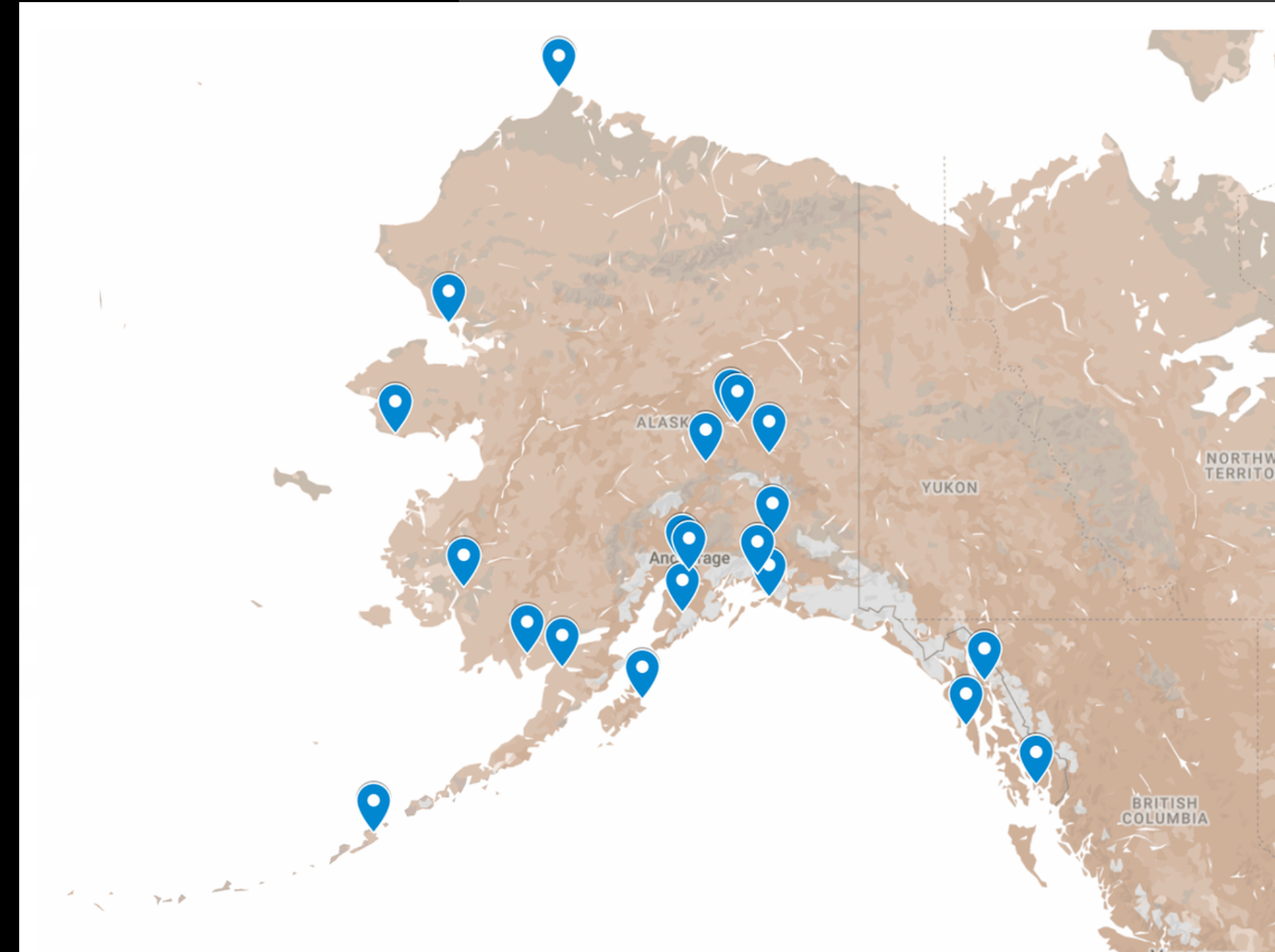
Unalaska

Utqiagvik

Valdez

Kodiak

King Salmon







EXISTING

# DIGITAL EQUITY INITIATIVES

A required element  
of the plan will be an  
“asset inventory.”

---

THIS MEANS TAKING STOCK OF  
WHAT INITIATIVES ARE ALREADY  
WORKING TO INCREASE DIGITAL  
EQUITY, SUCH AS:

- Digital navigators
- Digital literacy programs
- Affordability programs
- Equipment program
- Developing digital content that meets the needs of covered populations



# HOW COMMUNITIES CAN HELP



**ARE THERE CONVENINGS WE CAN JOIN TO GET DIGITAL EQUITY INPUT?**

**ARE THERE COVERED POPULATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY OR REGION THAT MAY BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO REACH, AND HOW CAN WE HEAR FROM THEM?**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS DIGITAL EQUITY? HAVE YOU DONE OR ARE YOU DOING ANY DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING? HOW CAN WE FIND OUT?**





# CONTACT

## **RASMUSON BROADBAND INITIATIVE FOR DIGITAL EQUITY**

**GENERAL CONTACT - [Broadband@Rasmuson.org](mailto:Broadband@Rasmuson.org)**

**JEFF BAIRD - [jbaird@rasmuson.org](mailto:jbaird@rasmuson.org)**

**RACHEL KALLANDER - [rachel@kallanderassociates.com](mailto:rachel@kallanderassociates.com)**

**KRISTINA WOOLSTON - [kwoolston@rasmuson.org](mailto:kwoolston@rasmuson.org)**

## **STATE OF ALASKA BROADBAND OFFICE**

**GENERAL CONTACT - [ced.abo.networkfeedback@alaska.gov](mailto:ced.abo.networkfeedback@alaska.gov)**