

DIGITAL INCLUSION NETWORK (DIN)

June

While we have missed you, and our originally planned meeting for June has been postponed, we'd like to keep you connected. There has a lot been going on in the Digital Equity space these past few months! In case you missed it:

Free Outdoor Wi-Fi

The County has provided [outdoor drive-up hotspots](#) at Central Library, Columbia Pike Branch Library, and Aurora Hills Branch Library.

Additional hotspots at Charles Drew and Barcroft Community Center parking lots will be announced soon. Plans for adding more outdoor spaces with Wi-Fi are underway. Promotional materials have been submitted through various nonprofit groups.



Total Number of Connections		
Central Library	Columbia Pike Branch Library	Aurora Hills Branch Library
1,372	1,010	2,401

Affordable Internet at Home

The County and APS is working with schools to provide free Comcast Internet Essentials for the next school year for all qualified students and their families.

Your assistance will be needed in communicating and promoting the program.

We will send you program details as they become available.



- **Target Audience:** 8000+ Free and Reduced Meal Children in Arlington
- \$500,000 County awarded grant program

Utility Assistance

Coverage for utility assistance has been expanded to include internet service.

Through a DHS partnership with Arlington THRIVE, residents who find themselves in financial crisis can seek relief. To find out more information, go to the [Public Assistance webpage](#) or call 703-228-1300.



Additional technology resources can be found here: ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Digital Equity Action Plan

- **Quantitative Data**
 - Phone survey with the option to be conducted in English or Spanish.
 - Expected to begin June 8.
 - Consultant is responsible for reaching 150-200 residents.
- **Qualitative Data**
 - Focus groups will be specifically set up for elderly, disabled, low-income, African-American, and Spanish speaking residents.
 - Expected to begin June 10 over Zoom
 - **Please help us recruit participants by emailing Christine Purcell (CPurcell@reingold.com) with contact information of willing participants.**

DEAP discussions are in a hiatus for the summer but we will pick back up in the fall/ late summer. The data from the survey and the experience with the Comcast Grant Program will provide us a greater perspective to work together in the future.

Please feel free to email Holly Hartell (hhartell@arlingtonva.us) with any questions or feedback related to our updates.