Digital Divide in Arlington

72% of households that lack access to broadband Internet connection

10% of households do not have access to a fixed home broadband

which includes cable, fiber optic, or DSL; a cellular data plan; satellite; or a fixed wireless subscription (earn $75,000 or less annually).

WHERE DOES THE DISPARITY EXIST?
Pay bills online
Participate in civic engagement
Public safety awareness
Make appointments
Work remotely
Research and apply for jobs
Communicate with friends and family
Access health care resources
Complete schoolwork online
Communicate and enable residents to:
Access to the Internet and digital

Why Is Digital Equity Important?
Arlington’s Vision for Digital Equity

Strategies will address:

- Economy: Fully participate in the community and technology capacity needed to adapt.
- All Arlingtonians have the information they need.
- Access: All residents can access the Internet with a device.
- Usability: Residents have the appropriate digital device.
- Skills necessary to be successful on the Internet.
- Program, sustainability & community: Arlington’s strategies to achieve its capacity.
- Community is engaged on the issue.

Equity, Goals, Education, Access, Sustainability, Connectivity.
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

DIGITAL EQUITY IN ARLINGTON JUNE 2020

- 87% pay $50+ for internet
- 50% of students have connection issues
- 52% use computer or tablet
- 39% use cell phone
- 43% believe price is better
- 32% believe quality is better
- 74% have 4+ devices
PROGRESS UPDATES SINCE COVID

- **900 Students**: Participate in distance learning and support family needs.
- **1,600 Patients**: Free Clinic Connection to Hospital w/o Medicaid.
- **14 school intersections**: Bring Wi-Fi options closer to residences.
- **370 Avg per week**: Connects Hotspots County Wi-Fi @19 sites.

**Comcast Internet Essentials**: Improve outcomes for individual's needs.
Feasibility Study

Provide a framework and cost model of providing housing to affordable broadband connectivity for properties.

Wi-Fi Blaster Project

Create a private LTE network using CBRS technology to provide APS to students along Columbia Pike broadband access in their homes.

Digital Equity Action Plan

Provide a policy framework with defined action steps and strategies to align funding and priorities.