**Illinois Digital Equity Capacity (IDEC) Grant Application Evaluation Criteria**

*Rubric adapted by Illinois Heartland Library System*

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| **Community Need and Service of Covered Populations (25%)** |
| *The level of demonstrated need for improved broadband access, adoption, and/or use, and focus on serving one or more Covered Populations.* |
| **Criteria** | **Max. Point Value** | **Score** |
| Portion of Covered Population(s) in the target community. | 10 pts. |   |
| Level of need in target community, as evidenced by connectivity levels, device ownership rate, digital skills level, educational attainment, poverty rate, participation in benefits programs, or other community and economic data. | 15 pts. |   |
| **TOTAL** | **25 pts.** |   |
| **Capacity of the Eligible Applicant (20%)** |
| *The level of commitment and appropriate skills of the lead organization to manage the project(s), particularly experience in similar digital equity programming, initiatives, or activities* ***or*** *demonstrated knowledge of and experience serving Covered Population(s).* |
| **Criteria** | **Max. Point Value** | **Score** |
| Breadth and depth of experience managing a comparable digital equity initiative **or** experience serving Covered Population(s) through other comparable community programming. | 10 pts. |   |
| Alignment of proposed initiative to organizational mission and long-term goals. | 10 pts. |   |
| **TOTAL** | **20 pts.** |   |
| **Quality of the Proposal, Including Alignment to State Digital Equity Plan (30%)** |
| *The level of specificity and clarity in the applicant’s implementation plan, outreach to and service of Covered Populations, and alignment to specific State Digital Equity Plan goals and outcomes.* |
| **Criteria** | **Max. Point Value** | **Score** |
| Specificity and clarity of implementation plan, including project milestones, timeline, staffing, metrics collection, and program evaluation. | 10 pts. |   |
| Quality of Covered Population outreach, accessibility, and engagement plan to ensure utilization of services. | 10 pts. |   |
| Alignment to State Digital Equity Plan goals and outcomes, with specific plans to promote one or more of the following measurable objectives: availability and affordability of access to broadband technology; online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services; digital literacy; awareness of online privacy and cybersecurity; the availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices. | 10 pts. |   |
| **TOTAL** | **30 pts.** |   |
| **Community Support (10%)** |
| *The level of demonstrated support from community stakeholders. Community support may be demonstrated through: letters of support; committed resources (i.e., space, funding); evidence of community-based planning, program design or input; or other meaningful showcase of support.* |
| **Criteria** | **Max. Point Value** | **Score** |
| The amount of local community input received by the applicant (e.g. unique or personalized letters of support, etc.). | 5 pts. |   |
| Diversity (or breadth) of community support provided. | 5 pts. |   |
| **TOTAL** | **10 pts.** |   |

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| **Budget (10%)** |
| *Reasonable and viable use of funding that aligns with project priorities and evidence of need. If staff salary is included, demonstrate equity in compensation.* |
| **Criteria** | **Max. Point Value** | **Score** |
| For feasible use of funds, meaning that the budget is clear and realistic, and it covers expenses for activities that lead to outcomes in the proposed plan. | 5 pts. |   |
| For equitable use of funds, meaning that the budget considers the needs of people working in this program and people who are served by this program, and allocates resources to address disparities while fairly compensating and fully supporting people doing the work. | 5 pts. |   |
| **TOTAL** | **10 pts.** |   |
| **Plan for Sustainability (5%)** |
| *The plan for program sustainability following the grant’s period of performance.* |
| **Criteria** | **Max. Point Value** | **Score** |
| Clear and feasible plan for how the initiative may continue following the period of performance. | 5 pts. |   |
| **TOTAL** | **5 pts.** |   |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **100 pts** |   |