Title	**0005**	10/27/2023
	by **Kevin Taglang** in **Digital Equity Public Comment (English)**	id. 44527935

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Please provide your first and last name	Kevin Taglang
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If you are affiliated with an organization, please provide the organization name	Benton Institute for Broadband & Society
If you are affiliated with an organization, please share a brief paragraph about your organization and its work in promoting digital equity	The Benton Institute's goal is to bring open, affordable, high-performance broadband to all people in the U.S. to ensure a thriving democracy. Benton believes that communications policy—rooted in the values of access, equity, and diversity—has the power to deliver new opportunities and strengthen communities. Please see https://www.benton.org/about-benton
If affiliated with an organization, please provide a link to website	https://www.benton.org/

Who is your main point of contact if we have further questions? Please provide their name and the best method to communicate with them if they are not the commentor on this form	Kevin Taglang headlines@benton.org
Is there any additional background information you would like our office to know?	
	Please rank the Kansas digital equity plan on how it accomplishes the following:
Question 1: Outlines the current state of digital equity in Kansas	
Question 2: Outlines a vision for digital equity in Kansas that recognizes the state's unique social and economic circumstances	
Question 3: Identifies the barriers to digital equity faced by each of the state's covered populations	
Question 4: Establishes an implementation strategy to achieve digital equity	

Question 5: Describes how Kansas will coordinate and conduct outreach amongst digital equity partners and stakeholders	
Question 6: Describes how Kansas will coordinate its use of DEA funding with any funds it will receive in connection with BEAD or other digital equity funding	
Question 7: Identifies the assets available to help connect Kansas' covered populations	
Question 8: If there are any digital equity assets that you feel have not been listed in the digital equity plan, please list them here	
Question 9: Please indicate which sections of the Kansas digital equity plan you are providing comment on	Other section not listed or general comments

Please provide comment on any other section not listed, or provide general comments on the digital equity plan	One key requirement of state digital equity plans is that they include a state's vision of digital equity. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) suggests that digital equity visions address at least these two questions: 1. What will digital equity look like in the context of your state? 2. What are the broad goals that should be accomplished in executing this plan (e.g., improve rural health outcomes, increase underrepresented youth employment in technology-related fields)?

NTIA has specifically advised states to "lead with equity," intentionally identifying, amplifying, and centering the voices of those most affected by the digital divide and disconnected communities.

With the extraordinary task and responsibility of state policymakers and local communities in mind, the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society launched the Visions of Digital Equity project to aid both in ensuring that more community voices are heard in crafting visions that increase opportunity for all.

Through surveys, community meetings, interviews, conversations, and a collaborative writing process with community contributors, we have arrived at a set of principles to help guide both the process and the resulting visions of digital equity.

We learned that a well-crafted vision of digital equity has the potential to be very powerful. It can:
• Offer a glimpse of a state transformed by universal connectivity,
• Provide a roadmap and resources for the digital inclusion efforts to come, and
• Act as a north star for goal setting, planning, and implementation efforts over the months and years to come.

The best visions of digital equity will be community centered and focused on creating change, specific and clearly articulated, and ambitious but attainable.

The Benton Institute for Broadband & Society reviewed the Kansas Office of Broadband Development's Digital Equity Strategic Plan and shared a summary of it with our readers (https://www.benton.org/blog/digital-equity-plan-connect-all-kansans).

Upon review, we offer 10 Principles for Digital Equity Visions (see https://www.benton.org/sites/default/files/VisionsDigitalEquity.pdf). We hope these principles help the people of South Dakota evaluate both the draft Digital Equity Strategic Plan and the KOBD's revision of the plan. To that end, we also offer A Checklist for Evaluating Digital Equity Visions (see https://www.benton.org/sites/default/files/DEV_checklist.pdf)

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the plan; I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss the potential of Kansas' vision for digital equity.

By submitting this form for public comment and evidence to support your comment, you are accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted and that it is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You agree to be contacted by the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce should the need arise. Furthermore, by making this submission, you understand that Kansas Department of Commerce and the Office of Broadband Development reserve the right to publicly publish your comment and evidence provided. Falsification of information will result in rejection of future public comment submissions and could result in legal action. Please type your name and today's date in the text box below.

Kevin Taglang 10/27/2023