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Title **0006** 10/27/2023

by **Jill Kuehny** in **Digital Equity Public Comment (English)** id. 44528383

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## Original Submission 10/27/2023

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Please provide your first and last name Jill Kuehny

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Please provide email address jkuehny@kanokla.com

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Please provide a telephone number if applicable +16208455682

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If you are affiliated with an organization, please provide the organization name Kanokla

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If you are affiliated with an organization, please share a brief paragraph about your organization and its work in promoting digital equity Kanokla is a telecommunications coop formed in 1951 and grew to also serve as an ISP since 1999. We have served broadband over 4 of the 6 technologies available: fiber optic, fixed wireless, DSL, and cellular. As a community provider, we assist our populations with ACP enrollment, digital skills training classes for all ages, STEM camps for youth for future workforce skills, employability, entrepreneurial start-ups and small business expansion opportunities in our region.

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If affiliated with an organization, please provide a link to website [www.kanokla.com](http://www.kanokla.com)

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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

Leah Sparks-Eakes leah@kanokla.com

Is there any additional background information you would like our office to know?

I am a life-long rural community supporter and have long pushed rural connectivity and lifelong skill-building for all ages to promote healthy lifestyles and quality of life in our predominately rural expanses of our state. Our employees love to assist our members in accessing connectivity, show them how to use our app and promote cyber protection and parental controls while utilizing our whole-home Wi-Fi virus-protection with our state-of-the-art router. We promote a "return to rural" to live, work, and play. We are attracting young families and young retiring professionals back to our rural communities that will be a driving force in digital literacy skills in our areas, using volunteers to mentor and teach our elders and young with a higher level of digital awareness to protect both of these vulnerable populations against cyber fraud, theft, and abuse.

Please rank the Kansas digital equity plan on how it accomplishes the following:

Question 1: Outlines the current state of digital equity in Kansas

Very well

Question 2: Outlines a vision for digital equity in Kansas that recognizes the state's unique social and economic circumstances

Very well

Question 3: Identifies the barriers to digital equity faced by each of the state's covered populations

Very well

Question 4: Establishes an implementation strategy to achieve digital equity

Very well

Question 5: Very well  
Describes how Kansas will coordinate and conduct outreach amongst digital equity partners and stakeholders

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Question 6: Very well  
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

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Question 7: Identifies Very well  
the assets available to help connect Kansas' covered populations

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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

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Question 9: Please indicate which sections of the Kansas digital equity plan you are providing comment on

Section 5: Implementation  
Section 3: Current State of Digital Equity: Barriers and Assets

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Please provide comment on Section 3: Current State of Digital Equity: Barriers and Assets

Section 3.1.5.5 ISP Support. Table 2. Kanokla accepts and promotes ACP since its inception.

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Please provide  
comment on Section  
5: Implementation

I applaud Strategy 5 to empower Kansans with in-demand workforce skills so they can thrive wherever they live. And that digital equity involves creating opportunities where they have been absent. For all of the assets and resources available, rural areas have an awareness barrier of what's out there. As a cooperative, we exist to improve the lives of our WFH members, our schools, libraries, community colleges, City governments, and agricultural businesses that are adopting technology faster than any other industry currently. We provide troubleshooting consultation for free with our help desk and offer practical solutions with hands-on setup and delivery for all of our members. Implementing digital literacy will have to be human to human, especially with free online courses that they cannot access.

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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.

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Jill Kuehny