
Title **0009** 10/30/2023

by **business speaks llc** in **Digital Equity Public Comment (English)** id. 44554020

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Please provide your first and last name Cerise Hall

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If you are affiliated with an organization, please provide the organization name Business Speaks LLC

If you are affiliated with an organization, please share a brief paragraph about your organization and its work in promoting digital equity Business Speaks LLC is a Sam certified EDWOSB/mbe/dbe/wbe company working in USD Title I school district teaching youth entrepreneurial enterprise to students as a pathway to reduce violence. Business Speaks LLC works with collaborative partners ISBA Inc (Topeka) and Future Leaders Outreach Network (F.L.O.N. Kansas City, Kansas). Business Speaks LLC educates in youth enterprise training as a pathway to reduce youth violence by using digital equity and inclusion solutions.
<https://smallbusiness.chron.com/entrepreneurs-contribute-society-78923.html>
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-16/a-new-study-finds-that-black-entrepreneurship-helps-decrease-youth-crime-in-african-american-communities>

If affiliated with an organization, please provide a link to website <https://yeeglobal1.wixsite.com/bspeaksv3>

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

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

Business Speaks has worked with several covered populations: Barriers and Assets 3.2.1 covered population needs assessment
-Rural America in digital skills and workforce development since 2011 and currently working in Rural communities
-Extensive collaboration partnerships with "Returning Citizens and Justice Involved" population
-Veterans in supportive housing
-Individuals living in households (varied ages) with incomes not exceeding 150 percent of the poverty level
-For profit and non profit entities of racial or ethnic minority groups

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

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

Average

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

Well

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

Well

Question 4: Establishes an implementation strategy to achieve digital equity

Average

<p>Question 5: Describes how Kansas will coordinate and conduct outreach amongst digital equity partners and stakeholders</p>	<p>Average</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Well</p>
<p>Question 7: Identifies the assets available to help connect Kansas' covered populations</p>	<p>Average</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Barriers an Assets 3.2.1 covered population needs assessment The DEA plan covers the most common digital equity assets however for in demand careers and positioning our labor force to stay local and making Kansas competitive. How can we have a skilled conversation about digital economy and upskilling and not include , entrepreneurs, small business, gig technicians, and for profit entities as a priority stakeholder voice? Here are a few digital equity assets to reimagine for upskilling -Entrepreneurship and small business "for profit businesses" and minority certified businesses https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-16/a-new-study-finds-that-black-entrepreneurship-helps-decrease-youth-crime-in-african-american-communities -Fintech -Cyber Security -Block Chain Technology -Tokenization -NFT -Content Creators</p>
<p>Question 9: Please indicate which sections of the Kansas digital equity plan you are providing comment on</p>	<p>Section 3: Current State of Digital Equity: Barriers and Assets</p>

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

3.1.1 Statewide Equity Assets -Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas State Department of Ed and local school districts
Business Speaks LLC is commenting on low income African American business who bootstrap their business and reliable , affordable secure internet creates a barrier to the digital economy. Great internet accessibility comes with privacy needs of intellectual property, customer privacy and cyberattack preparedness. The current need of removing barriers of existing entrepreneurial opportunities for Kansas small businesses , the Department of Labor recognizes entrepreneurship training in its workforce initiative. Educating our next generation of leaders in entrepreneurial skills training increases our workforce development pool
Few editorials to reflect how business owners are America's stakeholder and without adequate internet and digital equity communities are negatively impacted.
<https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2017/03/02/10/51/Entrepreneurial-Skills-Training>
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-16/a-new-study-finds-that-black-entrepreneurship-helps-decrease-youth-crime-in-african-american-communities>
<https://advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Small-Business-Job-Creation-Fact-Sheet-Apr2022.pdf>
<https://www.uschamber.com/small-business/state-of-small-business-now>

Cerise Hall 10/30/2023

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.
