



County of Moore  
—North Carolina—

## Digital Inclusion Task Force

BOC Meeting  
October 5, 2021

# Expanded broadband access will give residents

- online education learning and closing the homework gap;
- more affordable internet service;
- increase digital literacy;
- obtain enhanced service from public safety officials;
- connect patients in remote areas to health care providers through telehealth;
- allow small and home businesses to compete in local, national and global markets;
- allow government services to be more readily available;
- online tools for individuals with disabilities;
- communicate and stay connected with friends and family.

# Digital Inclusion Task Force (DITF) Focus

1. Determine where broadband infrastructure is needed to benefit the greatest population.
2. Communicate and market options for affordable internet service opportunities.
3. Determine how to increase digital literacy in the county.

# Aligning Focus with Economic Development Plan

*Strategic Economic Development Plan for the State of North Carolina  
by the Department of Commerce.*

**GOAL 3; Strategy 10:** Maximize the benefits of improved broadband access by advancing high-speed internet adoption and digital skills of North Carolina's businesses and workforce.

*Tactic 10.1: Expand access and lower costs "...Nearly 30 percent of households lack access to a highspeed internet connection; and roughly half are priced out of internet access, required to spend at least 2 percent of monthly income on a \$60 per month subscription..."*

*Tactic 10.2: Improve awareness and enable North Carolinians to realize the benefits of high-speed internet. "...Too many citizens lack the digital skills to take advantage of telehealth opportunities; online education and training; online job boards to find work; and remote work opportunities..."*

*Tactic 10.3: Assist small businesses ... in technical barriers to adopting internet-based technologies to enhance their operations. ...many under-resourced and under-equipped businesses were unable to seize new opportunities presented with consumers' expanding use of the internet...*

[https://files.nc.gov/nccommerce/documents/Polymaker-Reports/NC-Strategic-EconomicDevelopment-Plan\\_2021\\_asPublished.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/nccommerce/documents/Polymaker-Reports/NC-Strategic-EconomicDevelopment-Plan_2021_asPublished.pdf)

# Inaugural Members of the DITF

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Chris Butts	Moore County - IT Director (Task Force Champion)
Wayne Vest	Moore County - County Manager
Frank Quis	Moore County - County Commissioner
Richard Maness	Moore County Sheriff's Office - Chief Deputy
Bryan Phillips	Moore County - Public Safety Director
Deborah McGiffin	Moore County - Cooperative Extension Director
Kendt Eklund	Moore County Schools – IT Director
Libba Thomas	Sandhills Community College – AVP for Business and Administrative Services
Natolie Hawkins	Partners in Progress – Executive Director
Keith Conover	NC Broadband Infrastructure Office

# Additional Task Force and Sub-Committee Members

- Recommending an application form be posted to add additional members. These applications will be reviewed by the task force to determine:
  - How many additional members should be added.
  - What fields/backgrounds would be beneficial to the task force
- The task force may also create sub-committees as needed. These sub-committees may be appointed members or by applications.
  - The sub-committees would be tasked with finding additional information in a particular field of knowledge and reporting back to the DITF.

# Actionable Items

- Support internet service providers with broadband grants where applicable and feasible.
- Create a **Broadband Inclusion Plan** to determine areas in the county that lack broadband access, increase digital literacy, and engage residents in affordability opportunities. Implement additional action items based on this plan.
- Prepare and review **request for proposals** for county-led broadband grant programs.
- Monitor future digital inclusion opportunities that would enhance the lives of county residents.