

# State of Florida Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Adoption and Use (DAU) Plan

## Public Workshop



June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Bradenton, Florida

# Welcome!



- Please sign in and take a name tag
  
- Locate on the map approximately where you live. Place a color mark on that location using...
  - **Green** if your Internet connection is good
  - **Yellow** if the connection is spotty
  - **Red** if the connection is poor

# Your facilitators for today's meeting



Toree Ennis  
Consultant  
Thomas Howell Ferguson



Katie Smith  
Director, Office of Broadband  
Florida Department of Economic  
Opportunity



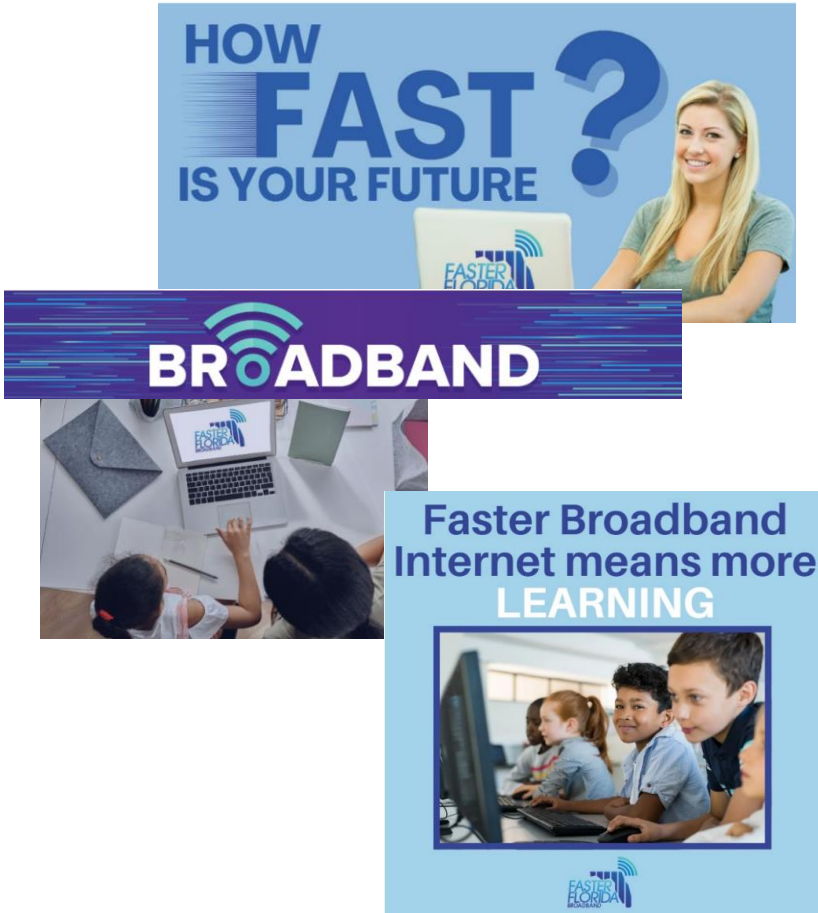
Susana Linares  
Spanish Translator  
Thomas Howell Ferguson

# Today's agenda

Time	Activity
10 min	Welcome and Introduction
10 min	Broadband 101
20 min	Overview of Federal Broadband Programs
15 min	Group Discussion
20 min	Interactive Activity
15 min	Q&A / Wrap Up



# Introductory remarks from FloridaCommerce



The mission of FloridaCommerce is to advance Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

The Office of Broadband within FloridaCommerce works with local and state government agencies, community organizations and private businesses to **increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband Internet** throughout the state. Through these partnerships, the Office of Broadband **encourages investment in grant funding opportunities** that focus on the expansion of broadband.

# Broadband is high-speed Internet that connects us with one another – and the world!



## Broadband Definition

Broadband is a type of telecommunications. It refers to **wide bandwidth** that can transport multiple signals over a “broad” range of frequencies, allowing **many data streams to be sent at once, over high speeds**. Broadband uses technologies like **DSL, cable, and fiber** to deliver internet access to homes and businesses.



## High-Speed Internet Definition

**High-speed Internet** is a generic term **used for Internet service** that is **faster than the average**. Traditionally, the way to determine if a connection is high-speed is to test its ability to connect multiple devices simultaneously to allow streaming and access to modern applications.



## Which Term to Use ?

The terms “Broadband” and “High-Speed Internet” **are often understood to mean the same thing** when internet speeds are at Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards or higher (i.e., speeds of at least **25 megabytes per second (Mbps) when downloading data and 3Mbps when uploading**).



**For purposes of this presentation, when discussing infrastructure or technology, we will use the term “broadband.” When discussing the service provided, we will use the term “high-speed Internet.”**

# The benefits of broadband span a wide array of public and essential services

*Broadband generates wide-ranging benefits...*

-  **Health** (e.g., telehealth)
-  **Economic development** (e.g., job creation and e-commerce)
-  **Government services** (e.g., improved traffic lights)
-  **Public safety** (e.g., disaster/emergency response)
-  **Education** (e.g., remote learning)
-  **Quality of life** (e.g., entertainment)

*and enables people to participate fully in our modern economy*

**77% of all jobs require at least some technology skills**

**48% of hiring managers say that candidates lack the skills needed to fill open jobs**

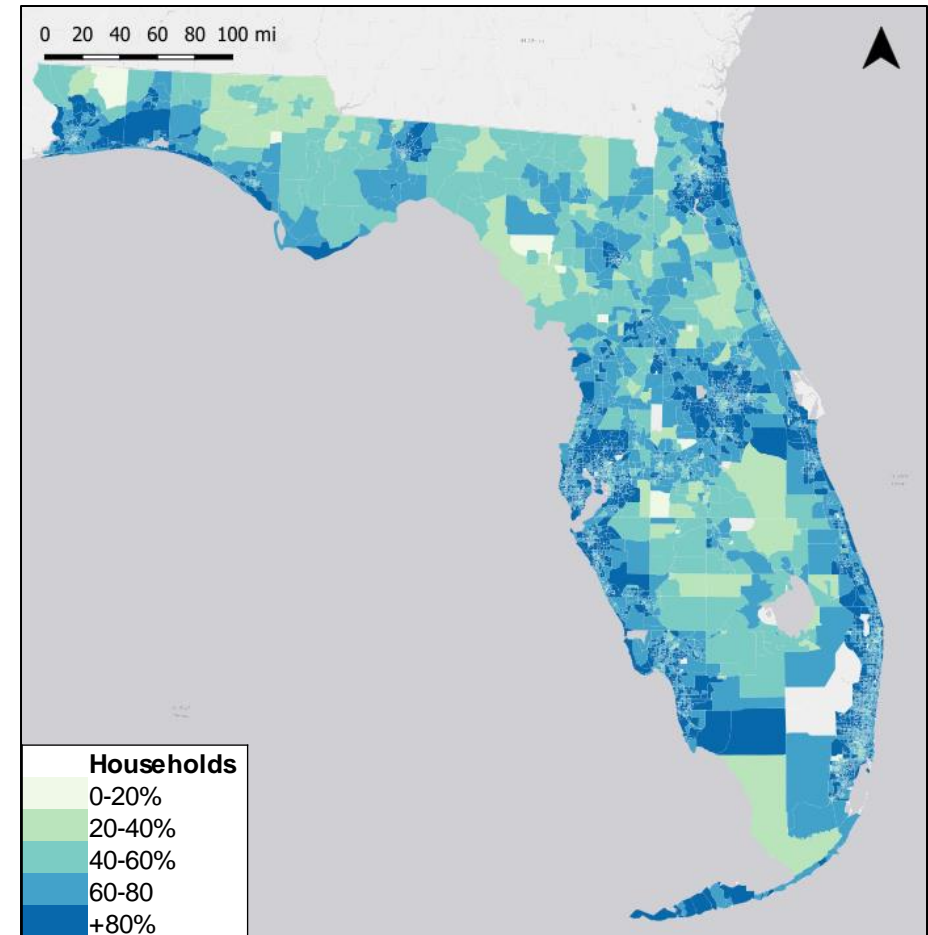
**29% of students without basic digital skills say they won't consider post-secondary studies**

\*Source: American Community Survey Device Ownership data 2015-2019. [From:](#)

# Understanding current connectivity in the State of Florida

- The **2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS)** conducted by the United States Census Bureau estimates that the State of Florida is home to around 8 million households. Among these households, the ACS finds that:
  - **74%** of households have a broadband Internet subscription through fiber, cable, or DSL. This translates to some **2 million** households that have not adopted broadband wireline services.\*
  - **94%** of households in Florida have a computer, suggesting that **490,000** households do not have access to this computing device.

\*Wireline technologies include fiber, cable, and DSL



**Percent of households with broadband Internet subscriptions by census tract in the State of Florida**

Source: ACS 5-year estimates, 2021



# Florida is participating in two Federal programs that aim to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband

## Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

**Objective: Achieve universal, high-speed coverage by building infrastructure and increasing adoption**

- ✓ \$42.45B nationally
- ✓ Funds the deployment of high-speed Internet in unserved and underserved locations

## Digital Equity Act Program

**Objective: Ensure all communities can participate and meaningfully use high-speed Internet**

- ✓ \$1.5B for states
- ✓ Funds activities that promote affordable access, digital skills, and devices

# The Digital Adoption and Use Program promotes access to high-speed Internet, digital skills, and devices

Overview	Program Descriptions	Eligible Uses of Funding	Covered Populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$2.75B</b> across 3 programs</li> <li>• Provides funding to promote <b>digital inclusion</b> and advance <b>digital literacy</b></li> <li>• Aims to ensure that all communities can access and use <b>affordable, reliable, high-speed internet</b> to meet their needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State Planning:</b> \$60M formula funding program to develop digital adoption and use plans</li> <li>• <b>State Capacity:</b> \$1.44B formula funding program to implement plans &amp; promote digital inclusion</li> <li>• <b>Competitive:</b> \$1.25B to implement digital inclusion activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing &amp; implementing <b>digital adoption and use plans</b></li> <li>• <b>Awarding funds to other entities</b> for their digital adoption and use plans</li> <li>• Providing digital literacy and <b>digital skills education</b></li> <li>• Facilitating adoption of <b>high-speed Internet</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Activities are focused on meeting the needs of specific populations, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Low-income</b> households</li> <li>• <b>Aging</b> populations</li> <li>• <b>Incarcerated</b> individuals</li> <li>• <b>Veterans</b></li> <li>• People with <b>disabilities</b></li> <li>• People with <b>language barriers</b></li> <li>• <b>Racial/ethnic</b> minorities</li> <li>• <b>Rural</b> inhabitants</li> </ul>

## DAU Plan Development Process

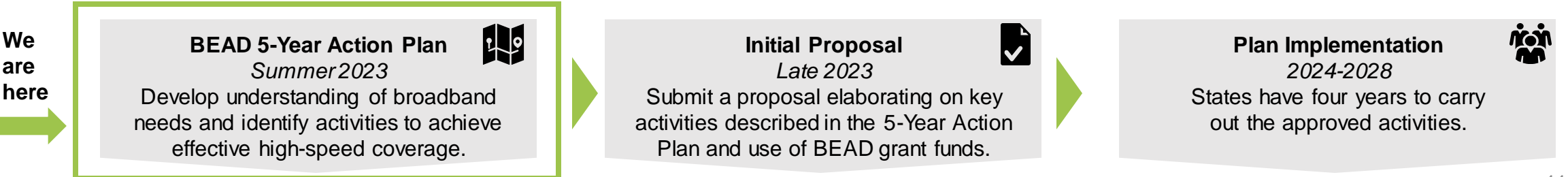


\*The State of Florida will be using the term "Digital Adoption and Use Plan" in place of "Digital Equity Act Plan"

# The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program supports the deployment of broadband infrastructure

Program Overview	Program Priorities	Eligible Uses of Funding	Subgrantee Selection Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$42.5B</b> for states, D.C., Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories</li> <li>• Funding for <b>partnerships</b> between states/territories, communities, and stakeholders for building broadband infrastructure</li> <li>• Aims to get <b>all Americans online</b> and increase adoption of high-speed Internet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Unserved locations</b> (those below 25/3 Mbps)</li> <li>• <b>Underserved locations</b> (those below 100/20 Mbps)</li> <li>• <b>Community anchor institutions</b> (Without gigabit connections) <i>Entities must also prioritize persistent high-poverty areas and offer a low-cost plan to all their subscribers.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Planning</b> for deployment of Internet</li> <li>• <b>Deploying/upgrading</b> Internet</li> <li>• <b>Installing</b> Internet in multi-tenant buildings</li> <li>• Implementing <b>digital adoption and use programs</b></li> <li>• Implementing <b>workforce and job training</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States create their own <b>challenge process</b> for FCC maps</li> <li>• Subgrantee selection process <b>must be competitive</b> and open to non-profits, cooperatives, P3s, private companies, and more</li> <li>• States <b>set selection criteria</b> using NTIA parameters</li> </ul>

## BEAD Plan Development Process



# Every stakeholder plays an integral role in the development and implementation of these programs

## **Community Organizations**

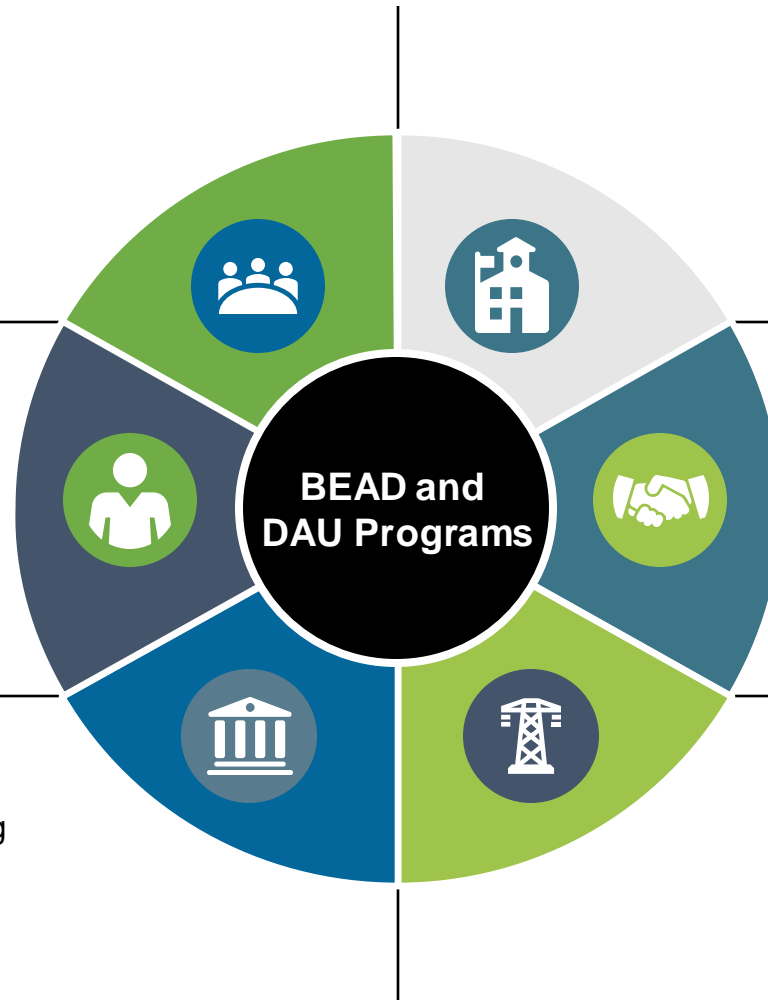
- Serve as thought partner as states design their outreach strategies
- Advocate for community interests across programs

## **Individuals**

- Attend in-person meetings during planning phase to provide feedback
- Participate in digital skill and literacy courses funded by programs

## **Local Governments**

- Collaborate with states to develop DAU plan and during BEAD planning
- Apply for federal Digital Equity Capacity and competitive grants



## **Community Anchor Institutions**

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster internet
- Apply for federal Digital Equity Competitive Grant
- Advocate for community interests across programs

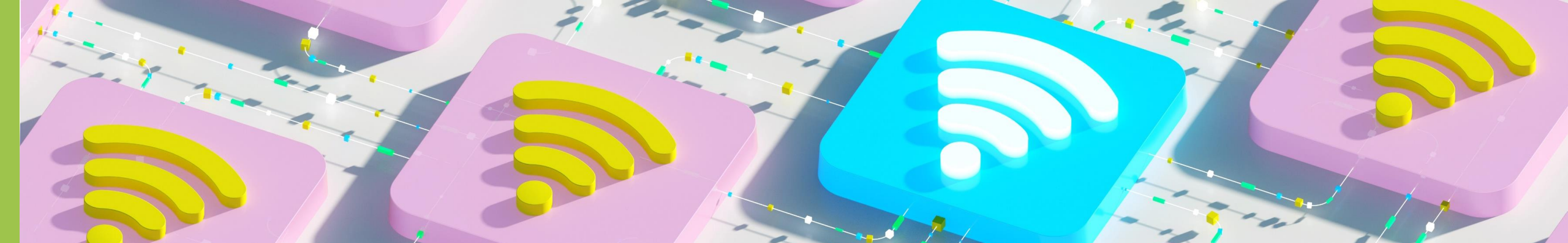
## **Tribal Government**

- Coordinate, consult and partner with states during BEAD and DAU planning
- Apply for federal Digital Equity Capacity grants

## **Telecom Providers**

- Provide feedback on hurdles (regulatory, financial, etc.) to expanding broadband
- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee

*Note: Telecom providers may include government-owned entities*

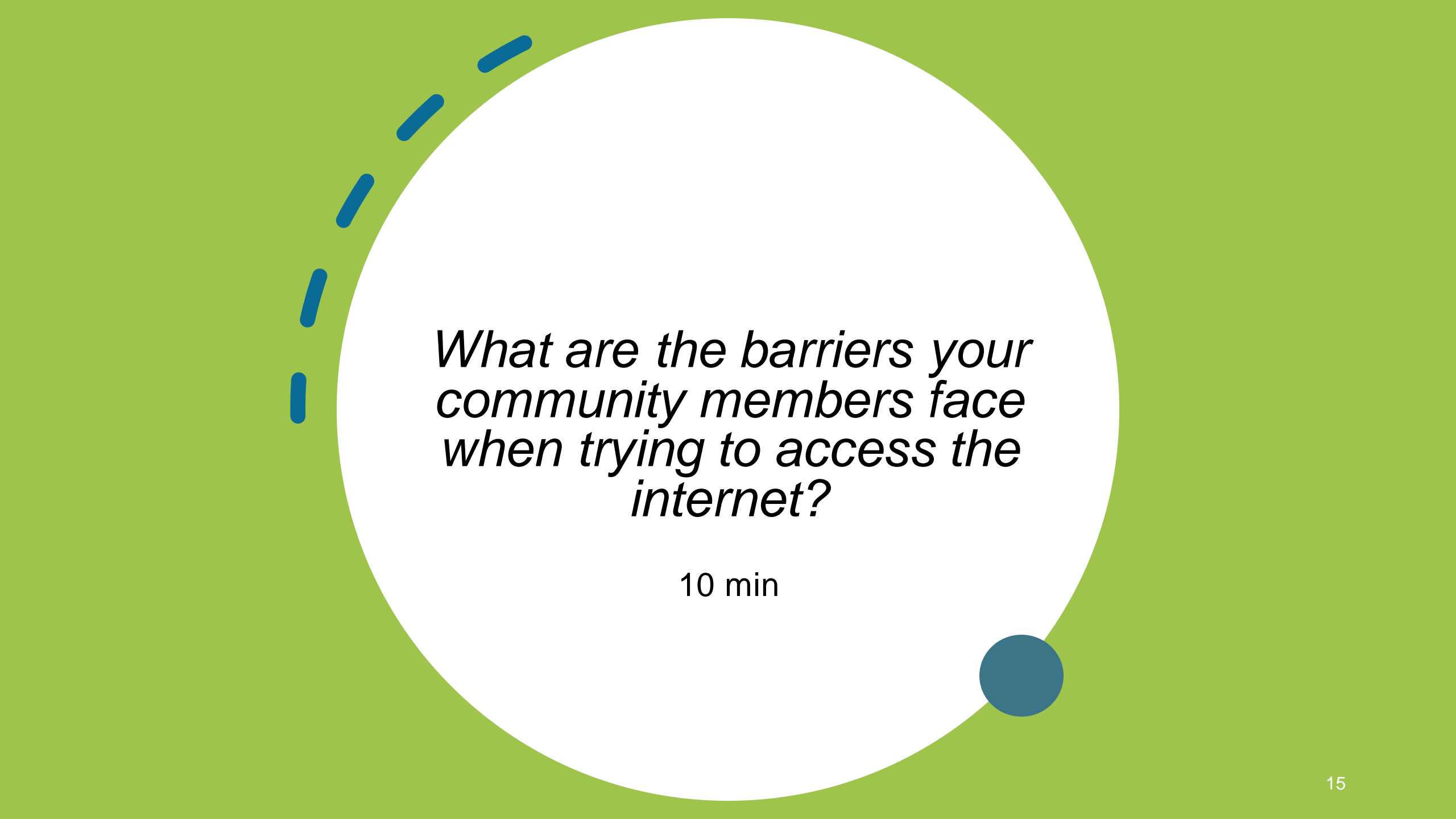


**Group Discussion (15 min)**



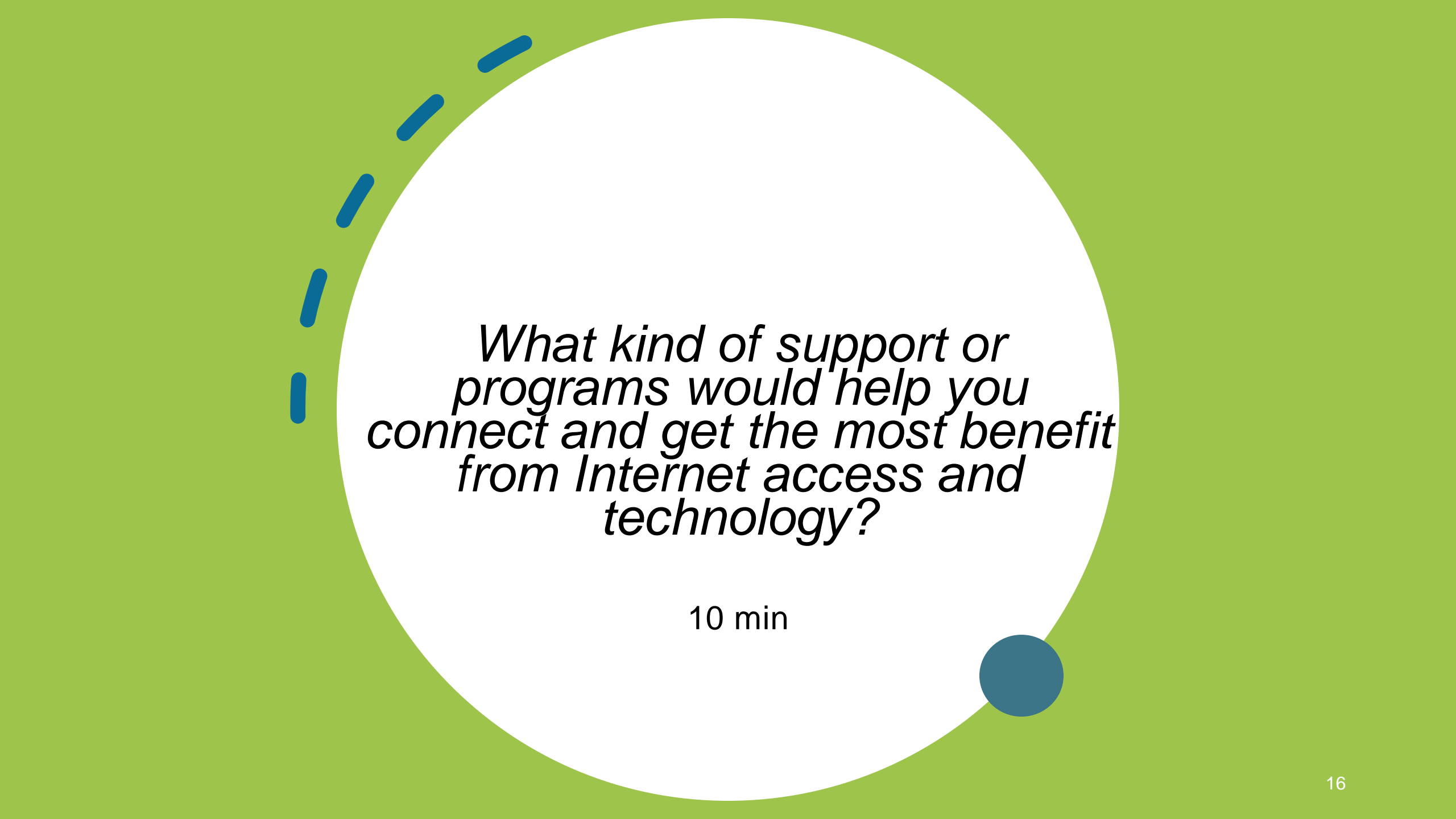
*What do members of your  
community use the internet  
for?*

10 min



*What are the barriers your  
community members face  
when trying to access the  
internet?*

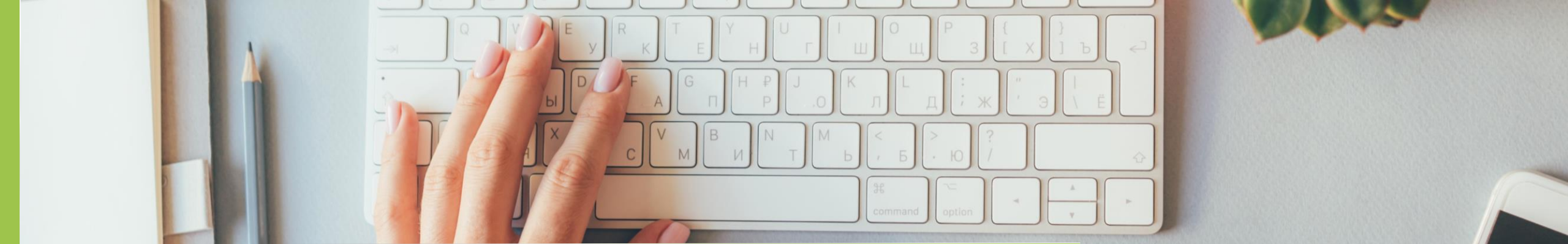
10 min



*What kind of support or programs would help you connect and get the most benefit from Internet access and technology?*

10 min





## **Interactive Activity #1 (10 min)**





## **Interactive Activity #2 (10 min)**





## **Q&A (10 min)**

# We are hosting public meetings and webinars across the State of Florida this summer



	 <b>Regional Public Meetings</b> 
1	University of North Florida / June 30 @ 5:30PM EST
2	Big Bend Technical College / July 6 @ 5:30PM EST
3	Gulf Coast State College / July 7 @ 2:30PM EST
4	Collier County South Regional Library / July 10 @ 5:30PM EST
5	Miami Dade College / July 11 @ 11:00AM EST

	 <b>Webinars</b> 
1	Friday, July 14, 2023 @ 10:30AM EST
2	Monday, July 23, 2023 @ 2:00PM EST
3	Wednesday, July 26, 2023 @ 2:00PM EST

**Scan the QR code or visit [floridajobs.org](https://floridajobs.org) for more information:**





***Thank you!***

Please contact  
[Broadband@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:Broadband@deo.myflorida.com) with any  
follow-up questions or feedback

