



CRA and Philanthropic Support for Digital and Educational Equity

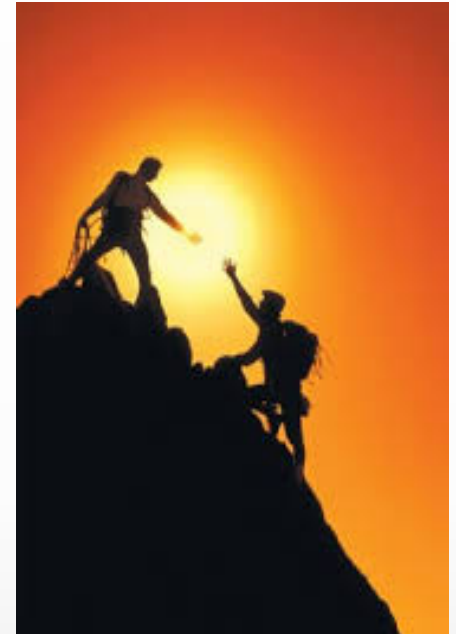
Extending Your District's Partnership with Your Bank

October 31, 2018



Key Ideas

1. Digital equity increasing barrier to educational & economic opportunity.
2. Federal CRA statute requires federally insured banks invest in economic opportunity in “LMI” communities.
3. School system leaders’ authority over where their LEA does its banking offers valuable leverage.
4. Philanthropic support in CRA-eligible vs. non-CRA-eligible communities: grants for digital & educational equity.
5. Key dimensions of digital equity.



America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages?

- 1990: [America's Choice report](#): choose high-skill high-wage economy or – by inaction – a low-skill, low-wage economy
- We chose inaction
- Today we face the same choice – an amazing “do-over” chance
- In digital economy and society, digital access & skill are *essential* for economic and educational opportunity, civic engagement, even health promotion
- Without digital access & skills, can't learn about, prepare and apply for living wage jobs
- Digital *access* alone not enough – not without digital age *skills*
- *We've now cracked code on ensuring banks receive Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit for grants to eliminate the digital divide as economic barrier*

We can take digital access & skills to scale nationwide through “small steps”

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

- Federal statute passed in 1977, requires FDIC-insured banks.
- In LMI areas (see our [map](#)), banks must provide equitable access to
 - Banking services
 - Capital and credit
 - Volunteerism
- All in support of economic opportunity

- Banks have received credit for CRA investments for
 - Affordable housing
 - Financial literacy
 - Financial inclusion (access to banking services) and, most recently
 - Economic inclusion

“Economic inclusion”

- 3 federal CRA monitoring agencies
 - Federal Reserve
 - FDIC
 - OCC in the Treasury Dept.
- Federal policy makers, their CRA examiners and bank CRA execs agree:
- Economic inclusion is vital – i.e., efforts to grow entry into and success in living wage careers
- This pertains to so much that school systems do

Economic Inclusion & Educational Equity

- Programs leading to STEM studies and careers
- College & career readiness
- Coding
- CS for all
- Student-run bank operated in the school
- Financial literacy in the curriculum
- GenYes teaching linguistically diverse youths to provide tech support
 - At school for non-tech-savvy adults
 - At home and in the community
- School and public librarians teaching cybersafety, device addiction, and media literacy skills
- Grants for home computers and broadband for LMI students & families...

Given wide latitude, how to proceed?

NCDE urges

- Close the digital divide, remove it as barrier to educational & economic opportunity
 - The “[Homework Gap](#)”
- Be systemic – not just “cheap boxes and wires”
- We’ve tried and tried and tried simplistic approaches
 - Computer lab in every school
 - iPad for every student
 - Without plans for ongoing tech support, good pedagogy, teacher PD, family outreach... these investments often don’t bear worthwhile fruit
- But when we do plan and act thoughtfully, [great results](#)

Resources We've Mobilized

1. **GIS Maps** helping identify potential partners for win-win-win CRA partnerships for digital equity and economic inclusion
 - [National CRA map](#)
 - [NH CRA map](#)
2. **Broadband**
 - NCDE, NSBA & NCDE poised to hold intensive NH and national retreats for broadband infrastructure development via bank CRA investment
 - [Internet Essentials](#), [Kajeet](#), other discount providers
3. **Tech Support**
 - [GenYes](#) & [Cyber-Seniors](#)
 - [HUD ConnectHome USA](#)
4. **New Computers**
 - [Connection Public Sector Solutions](#) & [Capital Good Fund](#): financing for LMI families with weak or no credit rating, starting pilot soon in Florida (now reaching out to other CDFIs)
5. **Refurbished Computers**
 - [Sage Sustainable Electronics](#) and bank CRA executives: donating refreshed computers for LMI families in bank's CRA assessment areas

Resources We've Mobilized

6. Librarian Support

- AASL, NESLA and NHSLMA: school librarians supporting cybersafety, media & digital literacy

7. Drive-Image Pointers from new & refurbished computers to Exemplary Materials for educational & economic inclusion

- [MERLOT](#): financial literacy, entrepreneurship, numeracy...
- [SkillsCommons](#): Job skills training materials for occupations with greatest labor market demand: see [Ohio collection](#)
- (Under development): NCDE Virtual Library Co-op: bundling fee-based academic resources
- Apps: [Appapedia](#)

8. Serving learners of all ages with special needs

- CAST: assistive tech, accessible instructional materials & universal design

9. MERLOT Voices: [An online community](#) to seek and share resources for digital equity & economic inclusion

As fiscal authorities over school budgets...

- You determine where your school system does its banking
- In districts *without* CRA eligible areas, can have conversation with your bank(s) on leveraging their philanthropic program
- In districts with CRA-eligible areas, can partner on grants for economic (and educational) inclusion that earn bank CRA credit

Insights from our *Guide to CRA Grantmaking for Digital Equity and Economic Inclusion*

- Seek partner on intersections between your priorities and widely accepted CRA purposes
 - Affordable housing
 - Financial literacy
 - Financial inclusion
 - Economic inclusion
- Seek partner on co-designing efforts *before* seeking grant funds
- Bank CRA spending is compliance spending
- Bank CRA spending is highly inertial
- Seek small grants to start...baby steps
- Seek for your efforts to become part of the bank's "new inertia"

Lessons from Collective Impact approach to meaningful community change

- See [here](#)
 - Common Agenda
 - Shared measures of success
 - Mutually reinforcing activities
 - Communications
 - Backbone organization

NCDE priorities in NH in coming year

Work with NH LEA leaders and their bank partners to:

- Replicate computer refurbishment and donation for LMI students & families
- Foster more GenYes chapters
- Support intensive systemic digital equity initiatives
- Develop business plan to generate significant bank CRA investment in broadband infrastructure, especially for rural areas

Working *together*...

...we can make a long-needed choice – to relentlessly pursue:

- A high-skill, high wage economy with
- Much greater upward mobility, fairness and economic vitality

Our kids, families & communities are counting on us



Q & A



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