

# WHAT IS CONNECTED MN?

ConnectedMN is working to bring tech devices, high speed internet access and digital navigation support to students and families across the entire state who have been traditionally underserved, including students who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. **We distributed over \$5M in grant funding to 65+ community based organizations across the state.**

Partnership for a ConnectedMN was created in early 2020 by philanthropic and business leaders, in collaboration with Governor Tim Walz, in the wake of COVID-19 to ensure students from high-need and underserved communities have the tools and support they need to participate in digital learning and digital life.



# BARRIERS TO CONNECTIVITY AND ADOPTION

## ● Education/Trust

There is a small adoption rate of Internet connectivity where physical infrastructure exists, largely due to lack of education of why Internet is needed. This is exacerbated by trust as oftentimes internet connectivity requires coming into one's home and providing personal information to government entities.

## ● Affordability

Although there are affordable Internet plans out there, one must know of their existence as well as have a device and provide personal information such as their SSN that may deter participation.

## ● Accessibility

Access to certain knowledge can inhibit adoption including a) knowing which service providers are available in a given area; b) accessing service provider contact information; c) ability to read/speak English; d) ability to navigate using the services available on the Internet once connected.

# SOLUTIONS

ConnectedMN believes all three barriers can be addressed by strategies:



## CONNECT

- 1) Continue to build and engage key relationships (e.g. RDCs, Initiative Foundations, key provider groups, local government, tribal communities, etc.)
- 2) Connect community with needed resources including:
  - Funding opportunities such as BEAD and digital equity grant funding
  - Tech-specialized services
  - Partner organizations to provide opportunities to secure devices



## CONVENE

- 3) Continue to host Digital Navigation and Connectivity monthly subgroup meetings.
- 4) Be in community to get more people connected by joining and hosting events.



## FACILITATE

- 5) Facilitate the creation and implementation of earn-to-learn opportunities in communities.



ConnectedMN is working collaboratively with organizations across the state.

### We invite you to get involved:

- Explore [all entities](#) involved in the ConnectedMN partnership
- Join a convening or [work group](#)
- Join as a sponsor or funding partner

[Learn more at ConnectedMN.us](#)

We are an alliance of public and private partners focused on connecting all students in Minnesota.

### Community Partners

Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation (SPMF)

MN Office of Broadband

Members of Governor's Task Force on Broadband

Collectivity

Corporate Partners (e.g. Best Buy & Comcast)

Economic Development Organizations

MN Education Technology Networks

Libraries, Community Centers, Faith Communities

Schools/Districts

Internet Service Providers

Townships/Counties

Community-Based Organizations

### Funding Partners



**BUILDING A MORE  
EQUITABLE, RESILIENT  
STATE WHERE EACH  
AND EVERY STUDENT  
CAN LEARN, GROW,  
AND THRIVE.**

