In 1997, the City of Seattle launched the Technology Matching Fund (TMF), providing funding and technical resources to support more than 150 local organizations. TMF is linked closely with the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative, and participating organizations have helped residents create resumes and use email for the first time. With $3.9 million in funding and resources, TMF has reached more 43,000 Seattle residents over the program’s lifetime.

Population targeted
Seniors, school children, unemployed, female heads of households, low-income households, non-English speaking households, people with disabilities.

Key metrics
This program has served 43,099 residents since 1998, with a special emphasis on building capacity of local partners. 75% of grantees increased collaboration with other organizations and 29% saw an increase in other funding opportunities.

City’s Role
The Department of Information Technology runs this program and works closely with the Mayor, City Council and the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative. A total of 15 employees work on the Fund, which has become an ongoing part of the city’s budget.

Advice to other cities
Engage with members of underserved communities on an ongoing basis to help clarify needs and barriers, guide and evaluate strategies and success. be sure to document and tell the story of how digital inclusion supports other values and city goals.