



Annual Report

2025

Strengthening Systems to
Expand Computer Ownership



A letter from Digitunity's Executive Director

In 2025, I attended Good Tech Fest, an invitation-only gathering of leaders from the technology, philanthropy, and nonprofit sectors. There was a consistent theme: a strong, interconnected infrastructure underlies meaningful impact.

That insight directly reflects Digitunity's work.

In the United States, 32.9 million people still do not have a home computer. Progress has stalled in recent years, even as education, employment, healthcare, and public services increasingly assume digital participation.

Owning a connected, reliable home computer is foundational to participating fully in the modern economy. Yet computer ownership is rarely treated as essential infrastructure in public policy or funding architecture. Broadband investments without an accompanying focus on adoption result in incomplete outcomes.

In 2025, Digitunity focused on strengthening the systems that make computer ownership possible. We aligned supply networks, advanced distribution best practices, expanded ecosystem development in multiple states, and contributed research that reframes computer ownership as a structural issue rather than a temporary programmatic gap.



Scot Henley
Executive Director

This is practical, non-partisan work. When policy and practice treat computer ownership as infrastructure, communities benefit from stronger workforce participation, improved educational outcomes, and greater service access.

As we move into 2026, our priorities are clear: deepen supply generation, strengthen computer distribution systems, and advance Digitunity's influence at the policy and industry level. We are mapping stakeholders, refining frameworks, and working alongside partners ready to embed computer ownership into long-term systems.

The opportunity is significant, the need remains urgent, and the infrastructure beneath this work is growing stronger.

Thank you for being a part of it.

The National Landscape

Digitunity's 2025 analysis of Census data points to a persistent systems challenge:



Approximately

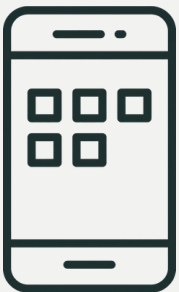
33 million people

in the United States lack a home computer.



1 in 7 households

does not have a laptop or desktop computer, with higher rates in rural and low-income communities.



Smartphone-only internet use continues to rise

particularly among individuals without a high school diploma, limiting digital skill development and economic mobility.

There is no coordinated system that expands computer ownership.

The computer ownership gap affects efficiency, productivity and economic outcomes across all sectors, yet is often not prioritized.

Digitunity's Role: Shaping and Strengthening Systems

We succeed when computer ownership ecosystems are stronger and aligned. Our work focuses on the infrastructure that enables computer ownership. The only way to permanently eliminate the computer ownership gap in the U.S. is through systems change.

Our work focuses on the infrastructure beneath the outcome of achieving universal computer ownership:



*Coahoma Community College's adult basic education program laptop distribution event in Clarksdale, MS.
Image credit: Coahoma Community College*



Supply

Shaping donation networks that redirect retired corporate and institutional technology toward community benefit.



Preparation

Connecting and increasing refurbishing capacity to deliver secure, reliable, and functional computers throughout local ecosystems.



Influence

Producing and translating research and data that positions computer ownership as foundational to broadband adoption and meaningful use.



Deployment

Advancing distribution best practices that strengthen local computer ownership systems and support meaningful use. Local ecosystems must be equipped to meet community needs.

Thought Leadership

In 2025, Digitunity contributed and shared research, analysis, and expertise that helped clarify the role of computer ownership in meaningful participation and move beyond short-term programs toward durable system design.

The following examples offer a snapshot of how Digitunity's efforts manifested across the field in 2025, though they do not encompass the full range of our events and key activities.



Sharing deployment insights in NC as part of collaborative efforts to strengthen statewide computer ownership systems.

Key 2025 Insights

- **Rural Roadmap:** Released [Supportive and Sustainable Computer Ownership Ecosystems for Rural America](#), outlining 20 actionable strategies for building local catalyst networks.
- **Reframing Ownership:** Research and interviews, including elevating findings from Dr. Amy Gonzales of the University of California, Santa Barbara, demonstrated that computer ownership plays a stronger role in meaningful internet use than home connectivity alone.
- **Evidence-Based Mapping:** Published updated [national maps](#) that reveal precise computer ownership gaps, enabling more targeted planning by states and funders.

Educating the Field

We participated in invitation-only retreats and national forums to advocate for systems thinking:

- **Net Inclusion:** Led a 3-hour workshop on applying systems thinking to computer ownership for practitioners and policymakers.
- **SERI e-Summit:** Reinforced leadership in systems-level electronics reuse and circularity.
- **SERI Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Technical Advisory Committee:** Contributed to the addition of a social impact requirement for R2 certification (Responsible Recycling Standard).

2025 System Performance Indicators

Digitunity helps more people own computers by shaping and strengthening the systems and infrastructure that make that possible.



50,168

Ecosystem Throughput

Items of technology circulated through coordinated systems, facilitated by Digitunity's donation processing software platform.



196

Committed Stakeholders

Corporate and institutional technology donors participated in structured donation pathways coordinated by Digitunity to align surplus technology with qualified community partners.



137

Community Reach

Local recipient organizations across the United States engaged through aligned placement processes.

Local Systems in Action



When systems are aligned, local community-based organizations can deliver impact at scale.

North Carolina: Digitunity was selected to support the development and implementation of the computer ownership component of the state's Digital Equity Plan. Working with the state's N.C. Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) and local partners, multifaceted levers of systems change are being advanced: policy, funding, training, interagency cooperation, and computer donations.

Southern Rural States: Digitunity continued and expanded ecosystem development in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi through coordinated supply pathways, digital navigator support, and integrated computer ownership and skills training initiatives.

Disaster Recovery: Collaborated with [New Mexico](#) to establish computer access pathways following natural disasters, demonstrating the agility of a well-coordinated system.

Our [Arizona](#) and [Mississippi](#) case studies highlighted how sustainable, community-driven models increase digital readiness.



North Carolina partners meet to advance statewide computer ownership

Partnerships That Move the Field

Durable systems require shared responsibility across sectors.

- **Corporate Collaboration:** Corporate partners, including H&R Block, Bristol Myers Squibb, Wiley, and Disney, continued to serve as supply stakeholders, demonstrating how structured donation practices can strengthen local computer ownership systems. AT&T provided funding to support research, field engagement, and rural ecosystem development.
- **Policy Engagement:** Digitunity leadership engaged with federal policymakers to inform funding conversations with field-level data.
- **Industry Standards:** Collaboration with SERI and circular economy leaders advanced repair and reuse as integral components of responsible technology lifecycles. At the 2025 SERI e-Summit, Digitunity shared systems-level insights on electronics reuse and the role of computer ownership in community impact.
- **Research Collaboration:** Research and analysis, including elevating findings from [Dr. Amy Gonzales](#) of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and [Dr. Brian Whitacre's Census data analysis](#), expanded the evidence base connecting computer ownership to broadband adoption and economic mobility.



Mississippi Broadband Association Computer Distribution Event, January 2025

Image Credit: Coahoma Community College

The Year Ahead: 2026 Strategy

In 2026, Digitunity will deepen focus on Supply, Deployment, and Influence while continuing to coordinate systems to make computer ownership possible for everyone.

Our priorities include:

- **System-Building:** Strengthening coordination across supply chains and deployment systems
- **Computers as Infrastructure:** Advancing computer ownership as essential civic infrastructure
- **Field Expertise:** Providing advisory support and evidence to enable others to scale
- **Ecosystem Strength:** Measuring success by how well public, private, and community actors are aligned

This report captures a portion of Digitunity's 2025 activity. Additional research, case studies, event participation, and field insights are available on our [News & Events page](#), as well as our [Reports](#) and [Resources page](#).



Family receives a computer through AZ nonprofit Chicanos Por La Causa, part of coordinated local systems connecting technology with communities.



Digitunity's Chief Program Officer Karisa Tashjian speaks at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Digital Access Research Forum



Coahoma Community College's laptop distribution event by their adult basic education program
Image Credit: Coahoma Community College

Financials

Digitunity remains committed to responsible financial stewardship, ensuring that resources are maximized to drive impact. For a complete overview of our financials, please visit the [Financials Page](#).

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our donors, partners, and collaborators whose support makes this work possible and advances computer ownership across communities.



For more information, visit our website at www.digitunity.org or contact us at info@digitunity.org.