



Consortium of Florida Education Foundations

2024-2025 AT&T Decreasing the Digital Divide for Florida's Students Grant Guidelines

When Florida schools abruptly switched to distance learning in March 2020, the extent of our “digital divide” became painfully apparent. Federal recovery funds helped some school districts move to one-to-one devices for students, and creative and collaborative community solutions have addressed connectivity issues. While these needs continue to various extents in our communities, we've learned it is not enough to provide devices and sufficient broadband access; equally important is digital literacy, skill development and ongoing support for families struggling with the complexities and requirements of online learning. When literacy and language barriers exist, the challenges can seem insurmountable without one-on-one assistance to navigate the technology and learning platforms.

The over-arching goal of this program is to ensure participating families have the technology-specific knowledge and equipment that supports the academic development of their children.

- The Consortium will fund projects between \$2,500 and \$15,000 across Florida. If more requests than funds available are submitted by the November 8 deadline, all submitted applications will be scored and ranked through a competitive review process. (See reviewer scoring matrix below.)
- Projects may support families and students with opportunities to build digital literacy skills through:
 - Workshops (held at schools or other community locations) that teach digital literacy, digital learning and connectivity/computer skills, including:
 - navigating school district education platforms to help students and families effectively engage in students' success;
 - essential digital skills, including Microsoft Suite products;
 - internet safety;
 - creating LinkedIn profiles;
 - importance of positive digital footprint and reputation;
 - cybersecurity;
 - utilizing educational resources such as those provided by AT&T, local school districts and others.

Suggested workshop resources include:

<https://att.digitallearn.org/>

<http://www.theachievery.com/>

<https://screenready.att.com/digital-parenting/>



- One-on-one time with e-learning coaches who:
 - Conduct in-home visits and assessments of technology and digital literacy needs,
 - Provide education and resources to families/students on proper and most efficient uses of computers/technology devices and tutorials on software, and
 - Provide education and resources to maximize understanding of school/teacher recommended or district's educational platforms and e-learning tools;
- Access to appropriate devices for student and family ownership. **NEW THIS YEAR: AT&T has limited the total grant award amount for devices and within each LEF's application, they must indicate how many devices they intend to purchase. There are restrictions on the total number of devices throughout all awardees.**
- Projects:
 - must **impact at least 100 students**,
 - **require family involvement**, and
 - must **engage low-income and underserved students**.
- Project budgets may include foundation implementation costs (max of 10% of other hard costs); foundation staff time; workshop facilitation, rental and materials; devices for student/family ownership; e-learning coach (stipend, travel, materials). Funding may be augmented by funds from other sources.
 - **AT&T does NOT allow funds to be used for teacher stipends or substitute teachers or anything benefitting employees of any school/district, including payments or stipends to district-employed school bus drivers.**
 - *Grant funds may be used to purchase devices for student/family ownership, but access to any internet provider services, either at workshop locations or by individual families, is NOT allowed.*
 - *New this year.*
- ALL projects will be **required** to measure and report the following outcomes:
 - Percent of students/families who demonstrate increase in knowledge of digital literacy at workshops.
 - Percent of families served who demonstrate measured engagement in student academic success.
 - Change in attitude of family and student participants toward digital literacy.
- All applications must be submitted by the local education foundation.

***** Please note: All applications must be submitted through the local education foundation and the Consortium online grants management platform. Applications due within Consortium's grant portal by 11:59 pm by November 8, 2024. But if you have any questions, please contact Jayne Moraski at jaynemoraski@cfef.net.**



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Grant Cycle Timeline

October 7, 2024	Announcement of the 2024-25 AT&T Bridging the Digital Divide for Florida's Families opportunity to Consortium via email.
October 7-Nov 8, 2024	Window for local education foundations to submit applications through the Consortium online grants management platform.
November 8, 2024	Applications due within Consortium's grant portal by 11:59 pm
Nov 8-13, 2024	Submitted applications reviewed
November 18, 2024	Selected awardees notified
Late November 2024	Awardee checks mailed
Mar 27-31, 2025	<u>Informal</u> Mid-Year Report due -- look for email correspondence from Jayne with request for update on funded projects.
May 1, 2025	Final project reports accepted online
June 30, 2025	Final project reports due online by 5:00 pm ET

Applications due within [Consortium's grant portal](#) by 11:59 pm by November 8, 2024. But if you have any questions, please contact Jayne Moraski at jaynemoraski@cfef.net.



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Grant Review Scoring Matrix

		Maximum Points	Your Points
1.	Need: Does the applicant describe an established need for project funding?	10	
2.	Participants: Does the applicant adequately describe how families/caregivers will be engaged in the project and how they will ensure low-income and underserved students will be served?	20	
3.	Activities: Does the applicant clearly and adequately describe proposed activities, and do they align with overall program intentions?	25	
4.	Timeline Does the applicant detail realistic timeline of project activities with planned milestones?	10	
5.	Outcomes: Does the applicant clearly and adequately describe how the required outcomes will be measured?	15	
6.	Budget: Is the budget reasonable and expenditure descriptions clear? Does the budget indicate how many devices the LEF plans to purchase? Can the program have positive outcomes if fewer device purchases are required due to funding restraints?	10	
7.	Reviewers Discretionary Points: (This category is at the discretion of the reviewer on how the overall project meets the intention and long-term aim of this program)	10	
TOTAL POINTS:		100	
8.	Comments and/or suggestions:		