

# DIGITAL EQUITY PLAYBOOK



## How City Leaders Can Bridge the Digital Divide

# Agenda

Overview of the Digital Equity Playbook

Panel Discussion

Q & A

What's Next For Digital Equity



# Why do cities need a Digital Equity Playbook?

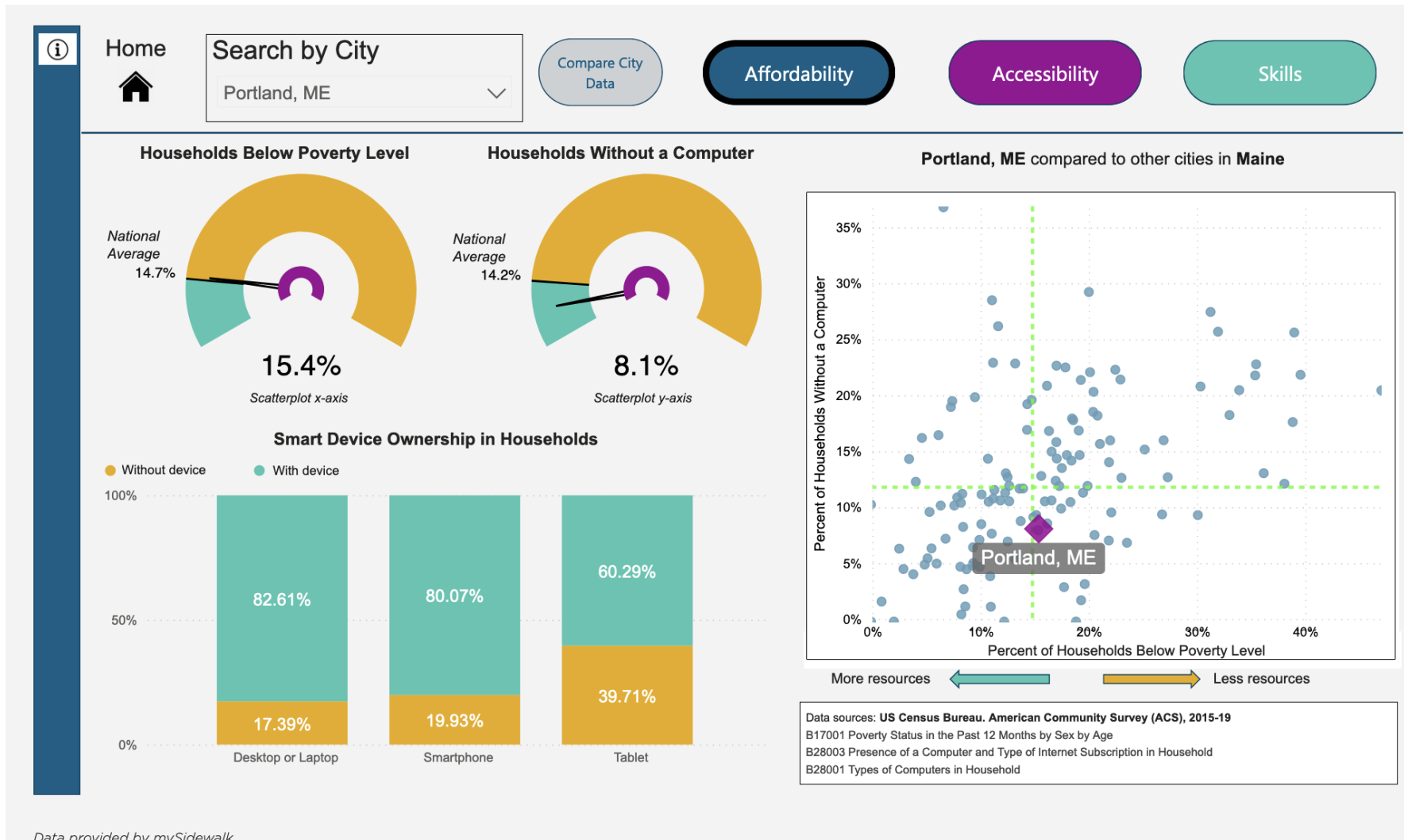
- ARPA and IIJA make unprecedented federal investments in broadband.
- \$65+ billion available for broadband in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, some directly available to local governments
- Local leaders must act NOW or risk being left behind

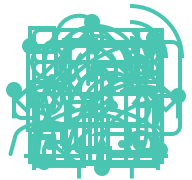
# The Digital Equity Playbook answers key questions

- What are the digital divide and digital equity?
- What is causing the digital divide?
- How can cities bridge the digital divide?
- What federal resources can cities use to fund digital equity?



# The Digital Equity Playbook helps cities get started





# The Digital Equity Playbook explores a variety of solutions

**Conduit Network**

**Community Broadband**

**Affordable and Free  
Home Connections**

**Digital Navigators**

**Dark Fiber**

**Fixed Wireless**

**Public Network and  
Connections**

**Digital Literacy  
Trainings**

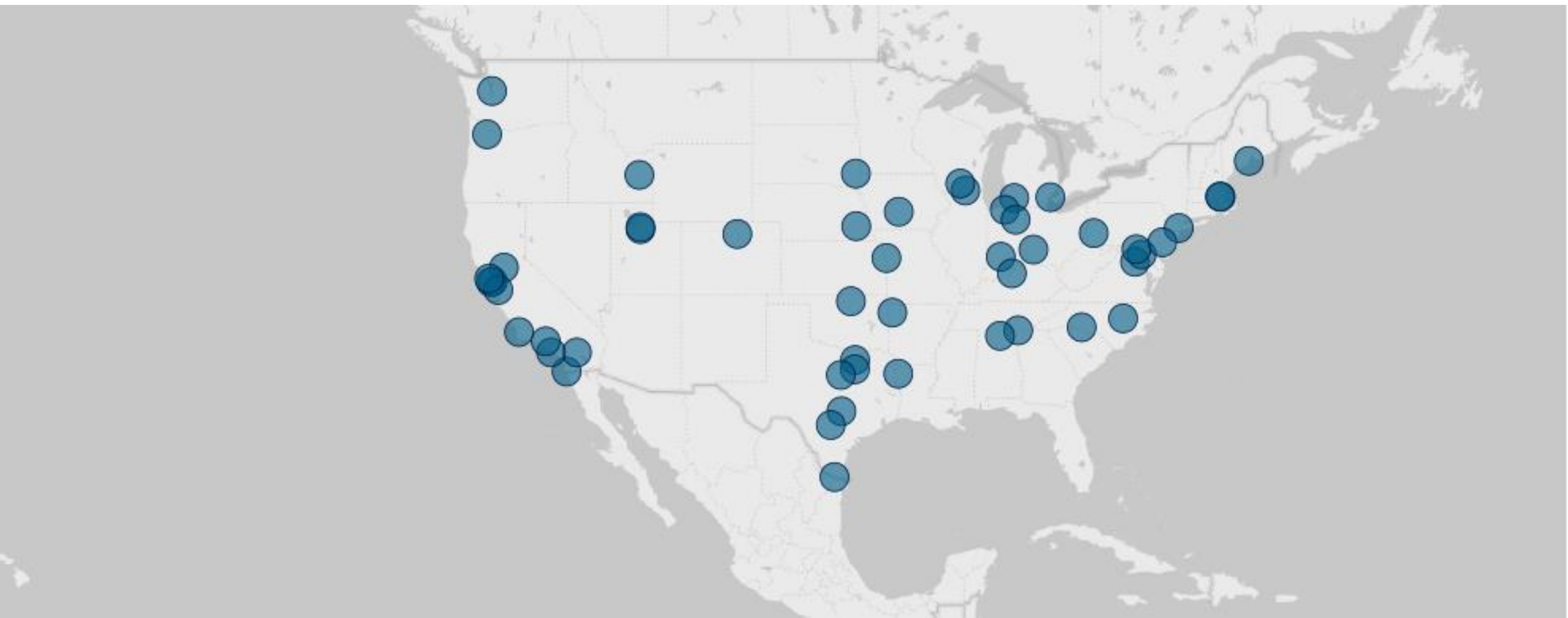
**Lit Fiber**

**Wireless Mesh Network**

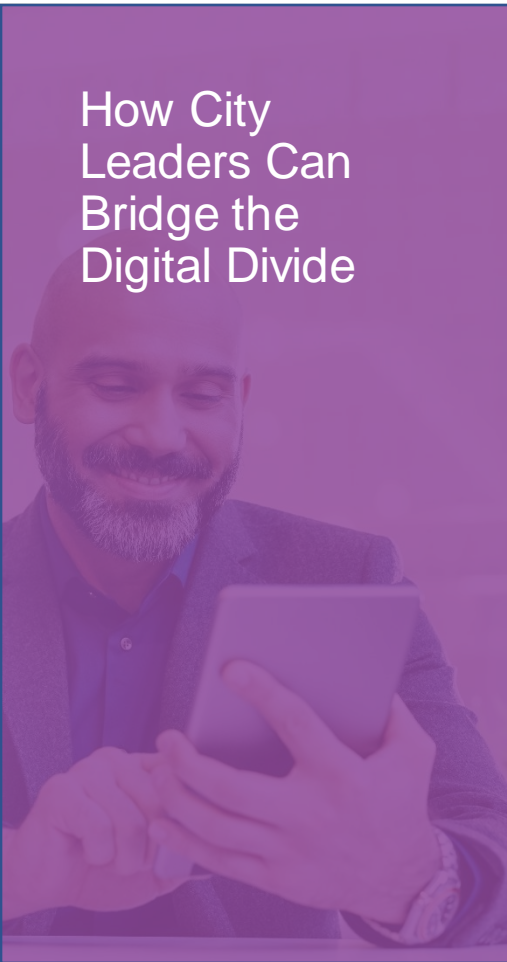
**Affordable and  
Free Devices**

**Tech Support**

# The Digital Equity Playbook highlights stories from cities across the U.S.



Visit [bit.ly/digitalequityplaybook](https://bit.ly/digitalequityplaybook) to read the complete Playbook and download summaries.



How City Leaders Can Bridge the Digital Divide




Getting Started with Digital Equity



Investing in Digital Equity Solutions: Infrastructure



Investing in Digital Equity Solutions: Program



Federal Resources for Investing in Digital Equity



# How City Leaders Can Bridge the Digital Divide



**SUSAN CRAWFORD**

John A. Reilly Clinical  
Professor of Law,  
Harvard Law School



**ROBERTO GALLARDO**

Director, Purdue  
Center for Regional  
Development, Purdue  
University



**MUNIRIH SANTIAGO  
JESTER**

Digital Inclusion  
Programs Manager,  
National Digital  
Inclusion Alliance



**MEGHAN MCDERMOTT**

Director for Digital  
Inclusion and  
Partnerships, City of  
New York, NY

# Check out the Digital Equity Playbook

[bit.ly/digitalequityplaybook](https://bit.ly/digitalequityplaybook)



## How City Leaders Can Bridge the Digital Divide

Broadband internet has evolved from being a cutting-edge luxury to an essential utility for participation in daily life. Unfortunately, not everyone benefits from this vital tool. Because of barriers in affordability, accessibility or availability, and skills, an estimated 42 million residents in the United States do not have broadband at all, and 157.3 million

live with slow or unreliable internet service.<sup>1</sup> This must change. Cities can be proactive to bridge the digital divide. The Digital Equity Playbook helps city leaders determine causes of the digital divide in their communities, provides recommendations to address it, shares stories from local governments and suggests additional resources.



**Broadband is high-speed, reliable internet access, measured in download and upload speeds.**