



**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION  
OF WORKFORCE BOARDS**

# *Leading with Equity*

# Digital Divide

- Broadband is now a basic infrastructure essential to the well-being of all in our community. The pandemic has only highlighted what we don't have and accelerated the need for building access to the emerging digital economy.
- Closing this gap in digital access is paramount to ensuring residents can participate in an economy that is increasingly digital.

# Digital Equity and Workforce Development

- According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Survey of Adult Skills, data shows 13% of currently employed American workers ages 16-64 have no digital skills, and an additional 18% have very limited skills. And of course, digital access is not immune to racial disparities. Workers of color are over-represented among those with limited or no digital skills.
- Black workers comprise 12% of overall workers, but represent 15% of the subset of workers who have no digital skills and 21% of those with limited skills.
- Latino workers represent 14% of overall workers, but represent 35% of workers with no digital skills, and 20% of those with limited skills.

# The Imperative

- If we truly desire a more inclusive economy for a Post-COVID world, the foundation for such an economy is digital access.
- Digital access is a first step to invite everyone into the conversation to shape a new economy.

# Small Group Discussion

- What is the area of biggest digital divide you see in your community impacting job seekers?
- What organizations are critical in your community to align and partner with to address digital and tech equity? How do you work with them today? Where are gaps that could be improved to ensure better alignment and linkages?
- What role do you think employers can provide in closing the digital divide?
- How could job seeker voices be included in policy making and program development when it comes to digital and tech equity?
- How do think you MAWB can make the most impact in this area?