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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**News Release**  
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## **SEPTEMBER IS DIGITAL EQUITY MONTH IN NCW**

### **-Several initiatives to raise awareness in NCW-**

**Wenatchee, WA-** The NCW Tech Alliance, Thriving Together NCW, and the NCW Digital Access and Equity Coalition have coined **September as Digital Equity Month in NCW**. In celebration and effort to raise awareness about the importance of digital equity, there will be a series of events, resources, programs, and initiatives reaching residents in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan, and Grant counties.

Launching in September, Digital Equity Month will offer community members access to digital resources, skills, and refurbished computers. It will also offer organizations the opportunity to enhance their digital navigation skills to better serve members of our community that are struggling to navigate the digital world.

Digital Equity is “*a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy,*” according to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. “At NCW Tech Alliance, we believe that living where you love shouldn't limit potential. For over two decades, we've championed digital equity in our region, and the journey continues. Recognizing the hurdles many face—from infrastructure to skills—we're committed to leveraging technology as a catalyst for change, ensuring everyone has access and the capability to thrive,” stated Jenny Rojanasthien, Executive Director of NCW Tech Alliance.

To raise awareness and offer support during **Digital Equity Month in September**, there will be a series of tools developed for community-based organizations (CBO) to use and distribute, as well as opportunities for people experiencing the digital divide:

- **Digital Navigator Trainings:** The North Central Education Services District will be leading Digital Navigator Trainings across the region. These train-the-trainer models are designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to become trusted Digital Navigators. Training will cover technology and telehealth basics and participants will gain insights on how they can help community

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**September is Digital Equity Month!**

members learn about web browsers, signing up for email, online portals, and more. Trainings are free and open to the public but require advance registration:

- o September 6 - 3:00PM - 7:00PM, Family Health Centers, Omak
  - o September 7 - 9:30AM - 1:30PM, Family Health Centers, Omak
  - o September 7 - 4:00PM - 8:00PM, NCESD, Wenatchee
  - o September 12 - 1:00PM - 5:00PM, NCESD, Wenatchee
  - o September 14 - 10:00 - 2:00PM, Moses Lake School District Learning Services Center, Moses Lake
  - o September 15 - 10:00AM - 2:00PM, Moses Lake School District Learning Services Center, Moses Lake
  - o September 18 - 4:00PM - 8:00PM Waterville School District Multi-Purpose Room, Waterville
- **NCW Tech Help Resources**: A comprehensive collection of information, tools, and resources that offers quick, one-stop support navigating the digital landscape and helps get individuals online. A printed and electronic guide will be available in English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian. Included will be a series of videos to help inform community health advocates and communities on how to utilize telehealth and technology resources.
  - **NCW Tech Help Learning Labs and Technology Classes**: Trained Digital Navigators will be hosting pop-up Tech Help events across four counties to assist individuals with various technological needs. They can provide guidance on connecting online, finding a local Internet provider, and explaining the concept of telehealth. Tech Help booths will be available starting August 24 during the NCW Fair in Waterville. Please watch for the upcoming dates and locations in NCW. In addition, NCW Tech Alliance will be teaching six technology classes at CAFE in Spanish from September 11 to September 28.
  - **NCW Digital Access and Equity Coalition**: The NCW Digital Access and Equity Coalition will officially launch on September 28 at 3:00pm. Stakeholders in this collaborative effort will address issues related to digital access and equity across Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties. CBO's participating in the coalition will be offered assistance to help their organization incorporate digital equity into their strategic plans and help address the critical gaps across the region.

### **NCW Digital Equity & Access Coalition members (as of 8/8/23)**

- Apple STEM Network
- Big Bend Community College
- Bigfoot Telecommunications of the Colville Tribes
- CAFÉ - Community for Advanced Family Education
- Chelan PUD
- Community Health Networks

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- Douglas County PUD
- Economic Alliance
- Grant County PUD
- Hispanic Business Council
- NCW Equity Alliance
- NCW Libraries
- NCW Tech Alliance
- North Central Educational Service District
- North Central Washington Equity Alliance
- Okanogan County & Colville Confederated Tribes Broadband Action Team
- Our Valley Our Future
- SkillSource
- Thriving Together NCW
- Wenatchee Valley College

If you are interested in becoming a trainer or partner organization, please contact [techhelp@ncwtech.org](mailto:techhelp@ncwtech.org). For more information about the **September Digital Equity Month** events, or ongoing digital equity initiatives in NCW, please visit [www.ncwtech.org/techhelp](http://www.ncwtech.org/techhelp) or contact Summer Hess at [techhelp@ncwtech.org](mailto:techhelp@ncwtech.org).

### **About NCW Tech Alliance**

Since 1999, NCW Tech Alliance has served as the region's tech alliance, championing growth and development in North Central Washington. As a 501(c)3, NCW Tech Alliance's mission is to bring people and technology resources together to support entrepreneurs, STEM education, and technology adoption in North Central Washington. For more information visit [www.ncwtech.org](http://www.ncwtech.org).

### **About JBe Marketing Group**

JBe is pleased to be a communications partner with the NCW Tech Alliance. Founded in 2001, JBe is a full-service marketing and communications firm serving clients in diverse industries. As marketing professionals, JBe passionately creates campaigns that drive results using the right mediums at the right time. [www.jbe-marketing.com](http://www.jbe-marketing.com)

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