



## Supporting Victims/Survivors with Access to Technology

Lack of access to technology prevents victims/survivors from being able to access lifesaving virtual services and other resources they may need. This resource provides some options for advocates to explore with victims/survivors to increase technology access and resources.

### Internet Connectivity

#### LOW-INCOME INTERNET SERVICES

Several internet providers offer low-cost services for those participating in some governmental programs, like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This is a list of providers in Minnesota who have low-income programs:

- [AT&T Access](#)
- [Spectrum Internet Assist](#)
- [Xfinity Internet Essentials](#)
- [Mediacom Connect2Complete](#)

Lifeline is a federal program that can also help lower someone's monthly cost for internet.

#### RURAL SERVICES

Some rural areas continue to struggle with internet availability, as fiber and cable internet isn't available everywhere. Some options for rural areas could be:

- 5G Home Internet ([T-Mobile](#), [Verizon](#))
- 4G LTE ([T-Mobile](#), and [Verizon](#))
- Satellite Internet ([Viasat](#), [HughesNet](#), and [Starlink](#))

Make sure to double check the coverage for your area. These rural options may not be appropriate for low-income victims/survivors.

## Technology Devices

This is a list of potential low-cost ideas to access devices for victims/survivors, such as laptops and tablets.

- Ask local businesses and universities to donate their old devices. Many can be refurbished and used for several more years.
- Potential partners for device access and refurbishment:
  - i. [PCs for People](#): provides low-cost refurbished computers to low-income individuals and families.
  - ii. [Repowered](#): a social enterprise doing electronics recycling and refurbishing which partners with nonprofits.
  - iii. [Ability Built Computes](#): a program of Ability Building Community, provides nonprofits with refurbished computers in SE Minnesota.
- [Ring for Nonprofits](#): A donation program specific for survivors of domestic violence to access home security technology.
- Purchase refurbished computers from options such as:
  - i. [Dell Refurbished](#)
  - ii. [Discount Computer Depot](#)

## Partnerships for Digital Equity

Programs can build partnerships with the goal of improving digital equity. Some partnerships could be for supporting nonprofit access to technology and some could help with victims/survivors access needs. Use the [HUD ConnectHome Playbook](#) for additional partnership and strategy ideas.

### MINNESOTAN ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON DIGITAL EQUITY:

- [Smart North](#): Digital equity nonprofit focused on technology access for underserved communities.
- [MN Tech for Success](#): Supports students and nonprofit access to technology.
- [ConnectedMN](#): Supports students access to technology.
- Foundations, like the [Blandin Foundation](#), support broadband expansion in MN.
- Cities and counties, like the [City of Minneapolis](#) or [Lyon County](#), may have city-level digital equity and/or refurbished technology resources.
- Many local libraries have digital equity priorities, teaching digital literacy skills.

## NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR DIGITAL EQUITY:

- [Mobile Citizen](#): Supports technology and internet access to schools, libraries, nonprofits, and social welfare agencies.
- [Tech Soup](#): Supports nonprofit access to technology.
- [Rural Health Care](#): A federal programs supporting rural healthcare facilities access to internet connectivity.

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