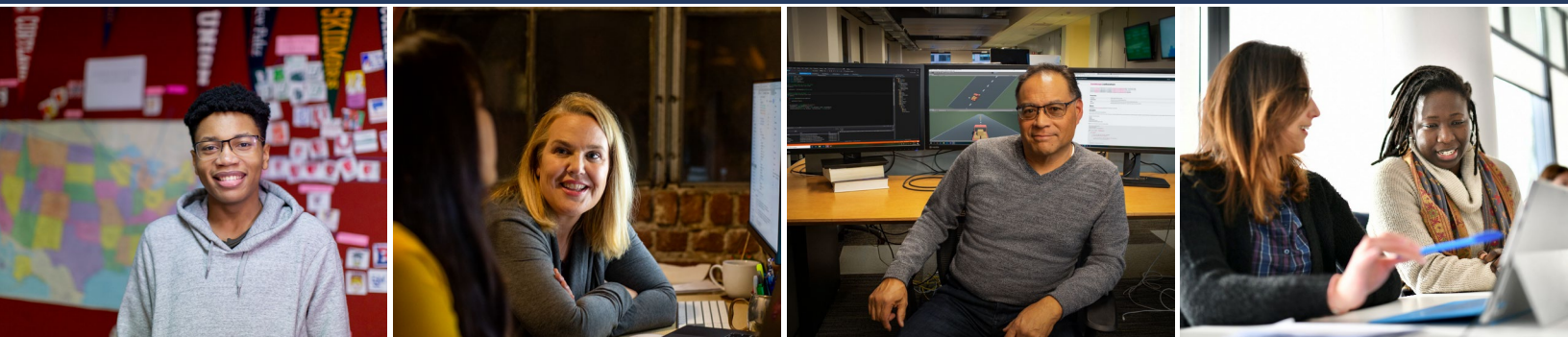


Helping close the digital divide



Empowering communities focused on inclusive economic growth

The problem we're working to solve

Rapid advancements in technology are creating new opportunities, but for many, they remain out of reach.

Access to affordable internet, affordable devices and digital skills is a foundation for empowerment, digital transformation and economic opportunity. Without it, people lack access to education, healthcare, jobs, and essential services—and risk being left behind in today's digital world.

Not only does this challenge impact individuals – the digital divide is also impacting our communities. These gaps create divides among not just people but also places and stand as one of the nation's starkest limits on opportunity for everyone and every place.

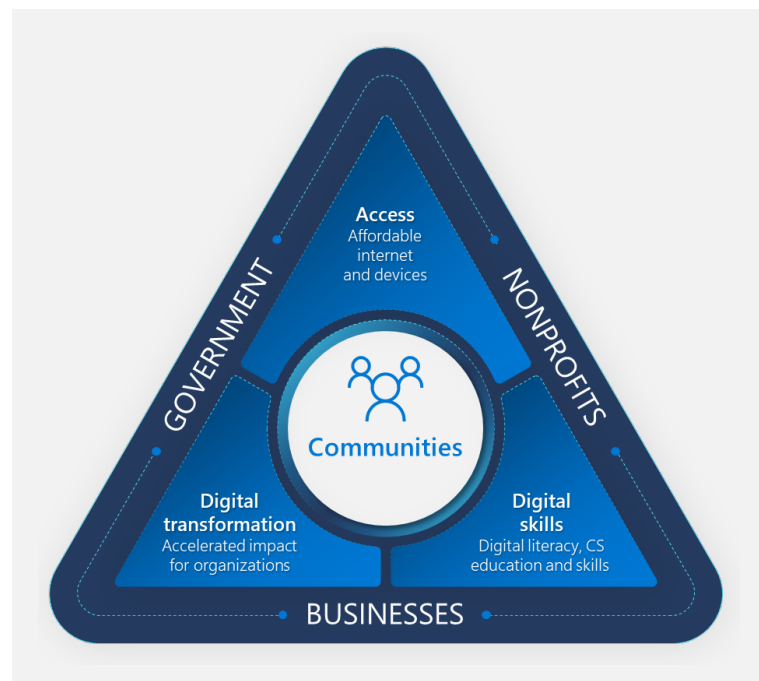
Founded in 2017, Microsoft TechSpark is a unique local initiative designed to foster economic opportunity in rural and remote communities. Since its inception in seven communities across the US, more than \$125 million in community funding has been secured, 3,300 jobs created, and 50,000 people have accessed digital skills. We've engaged with thousands of nonprofits and small businesses, supported over 500 start-ups and helped secure \$88 million in local equity investments to create local impact.

[Learn more](#)

A comprehensive approach

Tackling digital inclusion is complex and requires a strong, collective local effort. It takes working across sectors with other businesses, educational institutions, governments, and nonprofit organizations to create systemic change.

That's why, building on the lessons learned from deep community engagement over the past five years, we're sharing learnings, frameworks and resources, so that interested community stakeholders and local leaders in all fifty states can create inclusive economic opportunities in their own communities.



“As technology transforms every sector of the economy, we must work to ensure everyone has the right skills to fill today’s jobs and pursue tomorrow’s opportunities.”

— Brad Smith, President and Chief Legal Officer, Microsoft

Resources for community organizations driving local impact

Our work has taught us the partner is the most important component of driving change in a community. We are proud to support nonprofit partners focused on creating digital inclusion with technology, resources and opportunities to accelerate impact locally.



Microsoft TechSpark Community Engagement Fellowship

The Microsoft TechSpark Community Engagement Fellowship is a new program for nonprofits to build off the lessons learned from Microsoft TechSpark. Communities will be selected through a competitive open grant application.

Community organizations can apply to receive a mix of contextual technical assistance through in-person and virtual support and funding. Throughout the fellowship, fellows will be guided to select a focus area and build an engagement project from the following topic areas: Digital Access, Computer Science Education, Digital Skilling in Workforce Development, and Digital Transformation.

Applications open on March 1, 2023. Join us for a webinar to learn more.

Register at aka.ms/TSFellowsWebinar.



Playbook for empowering communities

Whether a nonprofit, local government, or business, the “Empowering communities” playbook is designed to support local leaders focused on community and economic development. The playbook and resources included are free to organizations across the country and feature:

- Access to data and actionable insights by community
- A proven engagement framework with step-by-step guidance and tools
- A compilation of free resources and tools
- Case studies from rural, mid-size and large cities

Access the playbook at aka.ms/TSPlaybook.



Resources to accelerate digital inclusion

Microsoft has long been committed to helping nonprofits do more good. Together with our dedicated partners, we’ve developed programs and materials to support communities in building digital inclusion. From digital access, to digital skills and computer science education, to digital transformation, we’ve curated content and offers to help organizations accelerate their missions.

Explore resources at aka.ms/TSResources.

Impact in action

As we mark five years of Microsoft TechSpark, we recognize that there is more work to do – in more communities – and we commit to partnering for continued impact. [See what’s next](#)