

WHY DIGITAL EQUITY NOW?



The STEM Alliance is bridging the digital divide in Westchester County – and beyond – because equitable access to digital tools promotes economic growth for individuals and communities.

THE NEED

In Westchester County, more than 120,000 people live without an internet connection and/or computer access. Thousands more can not afford the internet that they have and/or lack basic tech skills to use computers. Living an analog existence in a digital world marginalizes community members across education, health, banking, employment and more. Surveys of our clients show that:



42%

had no computer or laptop in the home



86%

no computer or laptop that was primarily for their own use



41%

had no reliable internet (18% had none at all)



50%

had no computer training



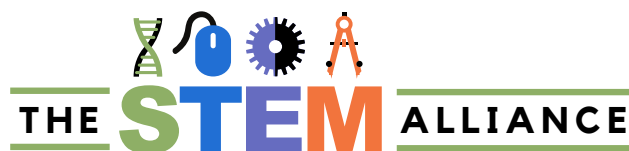
66%

weren't comfortable with basic workforce tools

OUR SOLUTION

The STEM Alliance offers a pair of wrap-around digital inclusion programs. First, *Digital Pathways* is Westchester County's first, large-scale initiative to screen clients for digital needs – device, internet and/or tech education – and connect them to resources that meet those needs. It is delivered by trained “Navigators” at partner sites near clients in need. Second, our *Digital Equity Now* classes help clients earn a Chromebook by completing 15 hours of tech education. In just 15 hours, we can take non-users to early stage tech adopters, putting them on the path to better outcomes.

To date, we have served more than 1,000 clients, funded by over \$1,750,000 in philanthropic donations. *Digital Equity Now* is helping to bridge the digital divide for Westchester!



Contact Polly Lagana: plagana@thestemalliance.org
www.theSTEMalliance.org

OUR IMPACT

Studies of our clients reveal the following pre/post tech education training impacts:

TOP 3 WAYS

clients plan to use their **new devices**

90%



Use and check email

85%



Improve skills to get a job

80%



Look for a job online

WITH ONLY 15 HOURS OF TECH EDUCATION Clients triple their comfort level with workforce tools

