

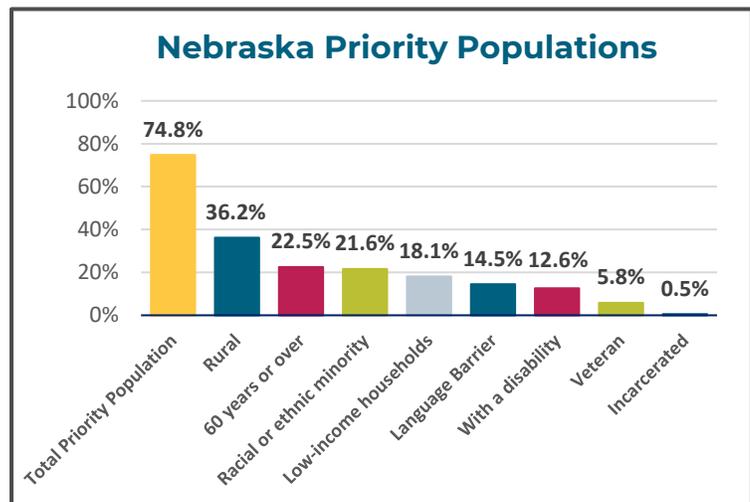
## Connect Nebraska Digital Opportunities Plan

With funding from the NTIA, the State of Nebraska will be developing a plan to ensure Nebraskans have internet connectivity, devices such as laptops and smartphone, and the skills to meaningfully use internet technologies. The grant will also promote the use technologies such as telehealth and precision agriculture which are in the early stages of adoption and have the potential to significantly impact the lives of Nebraskans and the state's economy.

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC)/Office of the CIO will be leading the planning effort with the assistance of the state's regional economic development districts and the Nebraska Library Commission. The one-year grant is expected to start in October of 2022. States which complete plans can apply for \$7.2 million or more in funding over 5 years to implement a state digital access, skills and opportunities grant program.

**Priority Populations.** Planning efforts will focus on eight priority populations shown in the chart to the right. Approximately 75% of Nebraska's population is included in one or more priority populations. Those living in rural areas and older adults are Nebraska's largest priority populations.

**Library Capacity.** Libraries play an important role in digital equity efforts. However, only 15% of Nebraska's libraries have broadband service of 100 Mbps down or greater. Planning efforts will address the capacity of libraries—particularly small, rural libraries—to participate in digital equity efforts.



**Planning Activities.** Planning activities will include:

- Inventory of digital inclusion assets and identification of best practices
- Webinars on priority populations, best practices and other topics
- Listening sessions focused on priority populations
- The development of regional digital equity plans
- A statewide planning conference

**Coordination with BEAD Planning.** The NITC/OCIO will coordinate planning efforts with the Nebraska Public Service Commission's BEAD 5-year deployment planning efforts.



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