

PHLConnectED Caregiver Digital Literacy Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Do the digital literacy classes for the current PHLConnectED grant opportunity have to be exclusively for caregivers, or can they be open to non-caregivers as well?

The classes that your agency offers do not have to be exclusively for caregivers; you can enroll other residents as well as caregivers. Our goal is to make sure there are enough slots for caregivers who want to take classes and that, if awarded, your agency can meet the goal set for the total number of caregivers enrolled in your classes by the end of the 18-month period based on your requested amount of funding.

If we used Zoom for parent-teacher conferences during the pandemic (including minor tech support), does that count as a digital literacy course?

Using Zoom for parent-teacher conferences with tech support is not a standards-supported course. This grant opportunity is looking to provide caregivers with the long-term digital skills they need that they can apply over time to whatever they are doing. However, a scheduled course or one-time workshop in which caregivers could enroll and learn how to use Zoom -- and that covers some of the Northstar standards listed under “**Supporting K-12 Distance Learning**” [here](#) -- would qualify as a digital literacy course.

Note: there will be another RFP coming out soon that may cover this type of very specific school-based digital support activity.

Will caregivers be able to access free computers through the city to participate in the program?

There is no requirement to provide computers to learners who enroll in digital literacy classes. Caregivers may have access to a computer at home or may be able to use a computer at the lab offered by the applicant or at the library or a KEYSPOt. Grantees should work closely with the City’s sponsored Digital Navigators to refer caregivers that do not have access to a computer at home. Digital Navigators have been successful at getting devices for those in need through several channels. Applicants may also include a line item in their budget for computers for learners.

Is there a target number of caregivers that applicants should enroll during the 18 months grant period?

Yes. For the full amount of \$62,000 over an 18-month period, at a rate of \$250/unique learner enrolled in your classes, your organization should be able to enroll 248 unique learners. If you apply for \$50,000, for example, you should be able to enroll 200 learners over 18 months in your courses.

What if you have one ELL school and one non-ELL school that you currently work with? Can you work with caregivers from both schools for this grant?

Yes, you can partner with schools that serve a majority of ELL caregivers as well as those who do not.

Do caregivers need to attend a minimum number of hours/sessions or complete a specific number of programs for providers to receive reimbursement?

No. This is a grant program and not a reimbursement model. Selected grantees will receive the full payment regardless of how many hours or sessions are completed by each learner. The model is intended to best address learners’ needs and we look to our digital literacy experts to design courses or workshops that can best improve skills. A caregiver may complete a one-time workshop on Microsoft Word or may complete a four-week course on Microsoft Word. Both would be acceptable but would likely cover different amounts of content and would have different outcomes for the learner.

Do we need to cover all the Northstar content listed on the slide (e.g. PowerPoint, Excel)? We provide digital literacy to grandparents raising grandchildren and some topics are more relevant for our population.

No. Applicants should provide a detailed description of the courses they currently run or intend to provide for this grant opportunity and how these courses fit within the Northstar standards. They should explain why they offer these courses and how they are relevant to the caregivers they serve.

Do SDP partner sites qualify for this grant?

Yes. SDP partner sites qualify for this grant, as these are either classified as schools or as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

How are you prioritizing grants for priority zip codes you mentioned (those that are coded yellow as higher level)? Is there a “set-aside” like the one identified in the grant guideline for those that focus on English Language Learners?

We aim to award grants to organizations across the priority zip codes as best we can. It is likely that not every zip code will be served, but we will try to ensure each region in the priority zones has 1-2 grantees. We will ensure at least one grantee serves the highest priority zip code region, but beyond that we will look for applicants that can meet the greatest need and have the right experience.

Do caregivers served through this grant need to meet the PHLConnectED eligibility requirements you listed at the beginning of the presentation?

No. We don't want to create more barriers for caregivers to increase their digital literacy skills. Any pre-K-12 caregiver who is looking to improve their digital skills can enroll in classes that the grantees will offer.