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!

**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

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