Digital Skills Ready@50+
Frequently Asked Questions (Partners)

Q: What is the Digital Skills Ready@50+™ program?

A: The Digital Skills Ready@50+ program, made possible through a generous grant from Google.org, was created to meet a pressing need: digital skills training for people over 50 who are living with low income, with a particular focus on women and people of color.

Q: What is the objective of the Digital Skills Ready@50+ program?

A: Our objective is to train at least 25,000 older adults in basic technology and digital literacy skills. This program will enable older adults with low income, particularly women and people of color, to obtain the digital confidence and skills they need to increase their long-term financial stability and put them on the pathway to good jobs.

Q: What is the Digital Skills Ready@50+ curriculum?

A: The curriculum features training courses developed by Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP that focus on building foundational digital skills related to workforce, job search, and entrepreneurship. Examples include:

- Workplace Essentials (Google Workspace, Chrome Basics)
- Remote Work Basics (Getting Started/Hosting on Zoom)
- Job Readiness (LinkedIn Basics)
- Tools for Aspiring Entrepreneurs (Web Design, Payment Systems, Social Media/Instagram)

Q: What are the service delivery models available to potential partners?

A: Community partners can deliver the trainings through the Senior Planet Model. In this model, OATS provides one of its Senior Planet instructors to deliver the trainings, either virtually or through a hybrid format. Microgrants of $4,000 – $10,000 are available.

Q. Is there a cost to become a Digital Skills Ready@50+ partner?

A: Like all AARP Foundation programs, there is no cost to participate as a partner. For this initiative, we are offering grants ($4,000 – $10,000) to support staffing and resource needs.

Q: What is the process to become a partner?

A: First, interested organizations should complete the partner application. Please indicate whether there is also interest in offering AARP Foundation's BACK TO WORK 50+ or Work for Yourself@50+ programs. If selected, partners will be expected to sign a letter of agreement (LOA) with AARP Foundation that will include funding (microgrants) and training outcomes. Once the LOA has been signed, we will onboard partners; concurrently, you may begin promoting and recruiting community members to join the trainings.

Q: Is there funding available to support potential Digital Skills Ready@50+ partners?

A: Partners will receive a microgrant ranging from $4,000 to $10,000 for the Senior Planet Instructor Model.

Q: In what states will the Digital Skills Ready@50+ program be offered?

A: AARP Foundation will roll out the initiative over the next year in eight states:

- **Arizona**: Phoenix (Maricopa County), Tucson
- **Georgia**: Atlanta
- **Illinois**: Chicago/Cook County
- **Louisiana**: New Orleans
- **North Carolina**: Asheville, Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham
- **Pennsylvania**: Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh
- **South Carolina**: Columbia
- **Texas**: Dallas, Houston, San Antonio

AARP Foundation will ultimately expand the program nationally.

AARP Foundation®
Digital Skills Ready@50+

IN COLLABORATION WITH
OATS | OLDER ADULTS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
FROM AARP

Q: I'm interested! How do we become a community partner?

A: Interested organizations can visit our website at aarpfoundation.org/digitalskillsready to register for an information session and fill out an application. AARP Foundation and OATS will review applications and select the partner organizations.

Q: What qualities is the AARP Foundation looking for in a community partner?

A: We are looking for community organizations who share our commitment to supporting vulnerable people over 50 in their employment journey; have the capacity, technology, and space to deliver the trainings; have the ability to reach and successfully serve older adults living with low income; and have demonstrated that equity and inclusion are central to their mission. If your organization meets these criteria, we encourage you to apply.

Q: My organization serves the target population, but we've never done a training on technology or digital skills like the Digital Skills Ready@50+ program offers. Can we still apply?

A: Absolutely! AARP Foundation encourages all community organizations to apply who share our commitment to serving older adults. You do not have to specialize in digital skills or workforce training.

Q: What are the expectations for partner organizations?

A: All organizations will be expected to market the program, train a mutually agreed upon number of participants, and track and report completion of training.

For more information

please email digitalskillsready@aarpfoundation.org

Q: How will this program benefit my organization?

A: This program offers community partners the unique opportunity to actively improve the lives of older adults living with low income by helping them build their digital confidence and skills. By participating in this program, your organization will be helping older adults gain practical and necessary digital skills to compete in today's workforce. AARP Foundation offers a variety of curriculum choices to meet your organization's needs. Community organizations will also receive microgrants to support program implementation and capacity building. In addition, organizations will have the opportunity to offer additional AARP Foundation workforce programs that can be sustained long-term to support older adults living with low income.

Q: How will this program benefit my community?

A: The Digital Skills Ready@50+ program is launching at a time when millions of older adults face financial hardship, many as a direct result of losing their jobs or income during the pandemic. Concurrently, demand for digital skills in the labor market has accelerated, making it harder for them to find jobs. Our program directly addresses these issues by providing older adults with essential digital skills to find jobs.

Q: How much money will partner organizations receive?

A: Senior Planet Instructor Model partners can receive a microgrant ranging from $4,000 to $10,000. There are also additional resources if you choose to provide Work for Yourself@50+ and BACK TO WORK 50+ workshops, depending on number of webinars, as part of the initiative.

Q: What is the difference between lectures, workshops, and courses?

A:
- Lectures are presentation only, one hour in length
- Workshops are hands-on and 75 minutes in length
- Multiweek sessions are hands-on, typically two times per week for 75 minutes. Multiweek sessions are either two weeks or five weeks in length.