

Building Digital Skill Capacity

Over Spring 2023, the Southern Rural Development Center worked alongside the National Digital Education Extension Team/ECOP Broadband and Digital Access Program Action Team, to conduct a national survey to determine which digital skills are most needed by community members from the perspectives of Extension professionals across all program areas. With 659 total responses collected online via a Qualtrics questionnaire, this survey sets a foundation for developing materials to address the digital skills needs of the populations Extension reaches. The Digital Volunteer Initiative is in direct response to these needs, with lessons addressing each of these topics. The top three categories of skills needed along with the specific competencies within each are



Safe and Effective Internet Use

- Cybersecurity, attacks, and scams
- Digital media literacy: accessing, evaluating, using & distributing information credibly, safely, and ethically
- Internet privacy and security, passwords, and sharing information online
- Accessing and navigating the Internet



Computer/Digital Device Basics

- Hardware and software basics
- Using a smartphone
- Saving and recovering data: file movement and management
- Downloading and installing applications



Interacting with Others Online

- Social media savvy
- Video conferencing
- Sharing files, folders, and attachments



To learn more, visit: <https://srdc.msstate.edu/digital-literacy>

Collaborating Partners

