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**Tashe' Allen**

District 3 Commissioner

**DeMont Davis**

District 4 Commissioner



**Valerie L. Fuller**

Communications Administrator

Office of Communications

121 South McDonough St.

Jonesboro, GA 30236

[www.claytoncountyga.gov](http://www.claytoncountyga.gov)

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Clayton County Named One of Nation's Visionary Digital Inclusion Trailblazers for 2025**

(Clayton County, GA) – The [National Digital Inclusion Alliance](#) (NDIA) named Clayton County as a 2025 Visionary Digital Inclusion Trailblazer, recognizing the County's efforts to close the digital divide for a third year. Clayton County joins 58 other Digital Inclusion Trailblazers, paving the way for digitally inclusive communities across the nation.

Digitally inclusive communities have access to affordable high-speed internet, digital devices, and digital skills training, all of which are essential to participating and thriving in today's digital world. Recognizing the ongoing needs and "digital gaps" in the community, the Clayton County Office of Digital Equity continues in its efforts towards digital equity.

"This recognition underscores Clayton County's belief that access to technology and digital skills is no longer optional—it is essential," said Matthew Hutcherson, III, Interim Chief Information Officer for Clayton County. "Under the leadership of Ms. Thomas and her hard-working staff, we are building a more connected, resilient county by ensuring residents have the tools, skills, and support needed to be productive citizens and thrive in a digital society."

"The Office of Digital Equity was established three and a half years ago without a blueprint—but with a clear understanding that Clayton County's digital divide had to be addressed," said Takiyah J. Thomas, Administrator of the Clayton County Office of Digital Equity. "We hit the ground running and, to date, have facilitated 357 free digital skills trainings, serving more than 2,000 residents, while distributing 870 free digital devices through the support of our incredible national and local non-profit partners. As we approach our fourth year, we remain committed to reaching residents 'one household at a time', and deepening stakeholder engagement to advance digital equity throughout Clayton County."

"Nonprofits, libraries, churches, and other community organizations can't reach digital equity on their own. For everyone to thrive in today's digital world, we need all hands-on deck," said Angela Siefer, NDIA executive director. "NDIA's Digital Inclusion Trailblazer program exemplifies the key role of local governments in building digital opportunities for all of their residents."

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Trailblazers provide models for other local governments to aspire to as communities build digital inclusion ecosystems. Clayton County achieved “Visionary” Trailblazer status through the efforts of the Office of Digital Equity, a division of the County’s Department of Information Technology, by prioritizing digital inclusion for residents of their communities through:

- Maintaining partnerships with stakeholders that promote digital inclusion through device distribution and digital skills training
- Regularly facilitating free countywide digital skills training for Clayton County residents and business owners
- Participating in community events to raise awareness and build trust in the County’s digital equity initiative

The Trailblazer program [identifies seven categories](#) of current best practices. Each applicant’s materials are verified for accuracy, assessed for community impact, and [posted in an interactive map and searchable database](#) on NDIA’s website. By sharing materials with open-sourcing, NDIA provides community advocates and local governments ways to continue learning, connect with trailblazing peers, and plan their own digital inclusion solutions.

Media representatives should contact the Office of Communications, Communications Administrator, Valerie L. Fuller at 770.473.3834 or submit a media inquiry: <https://claytoncountyforms.claytoncountyga.gov/news-media-request/>.

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**About National Digital Inclusion Alliance:** NDIA advances digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act. Working collaboratively with over 2000 affiliates, NDIA advocates for equitable broadband access, tech devices, digital skills training, and tech support. For more information, visit [digitalinclusion.org](https://digitalinclusion.org).