The global pandemic and resulting stay-at-home restrictions highlighted Westchester’s ongoing digital divide. Many families struggled to accomplish everyday tasks and keep their kids connected to school because they lacked a computer, a strong internet connection, or familiarity with technology.

With support from our Covid-19 Response Fund the Westchester Library System (WLS) helped to bridge this gap by equipping 268 low-income families with a computer and internet connection. WLS also provided basic training on how to use the device and how to access online information and resources through their local library. Families used the computers to access housing applications, set up mental health appointments, and connect with job counselors.

Today, the WLS continues to bridge the digital divide through a number of initiatives. Reconnect with Tech is a digital access and training program for formerly incarcerated individuals and Digital Equity on the Road brings a mobile van and digital navigators to communities throughout Westchester.