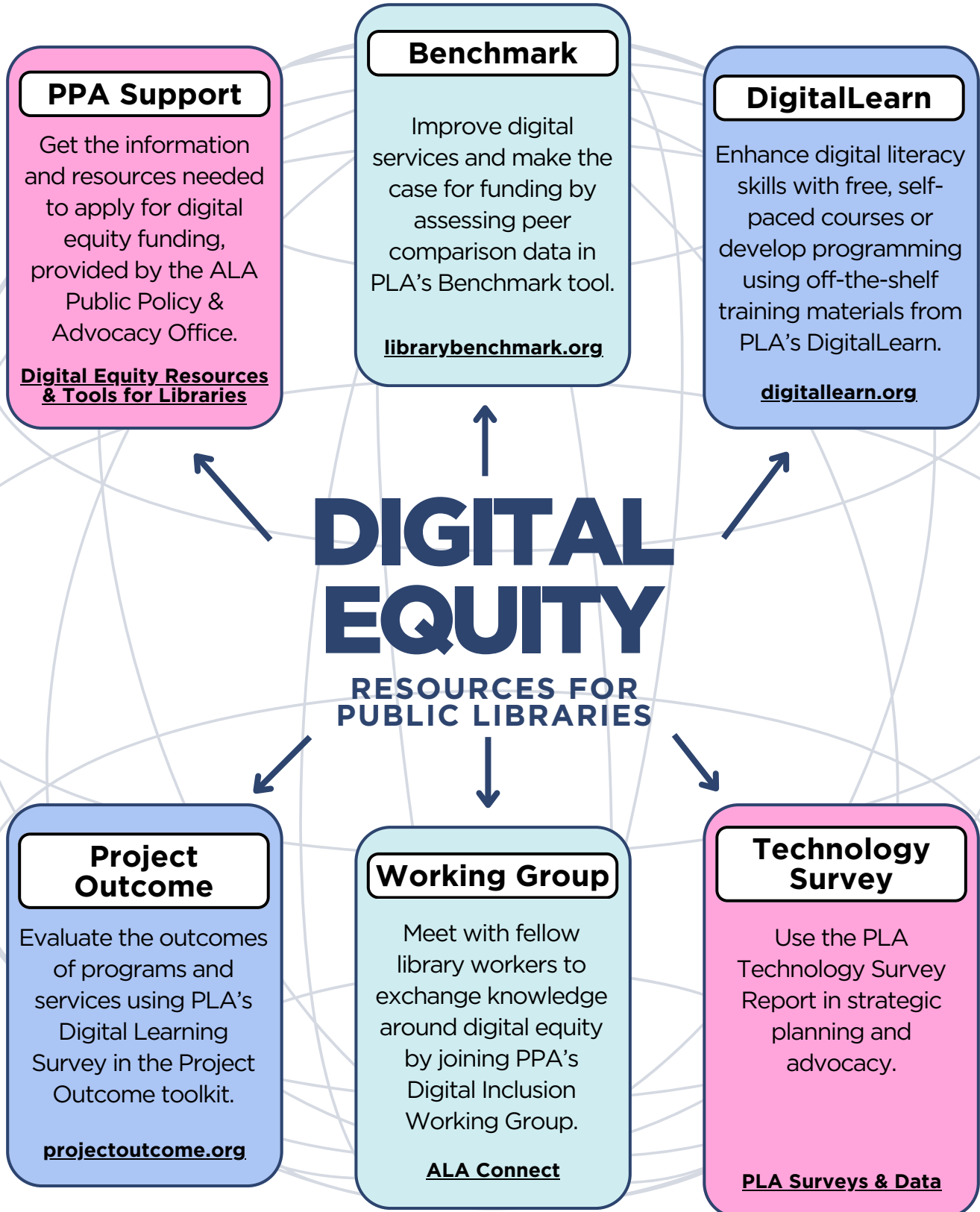
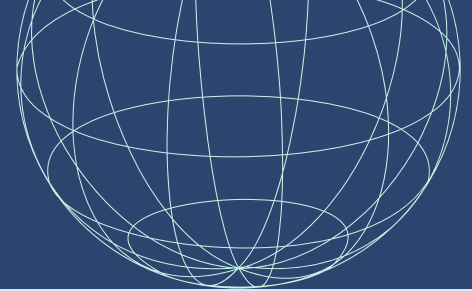


The federal government is making historic investments in digital equity and inclusion, and libraries should be recognized and funded as part of this effort. Together, the Public Library Association (PLA) and ALA's Public Policy & Advocacy Office (PPA) provide a suite of freely available resources and guidance to help library staff meet this moment. We invite you to explore and use these resources to expand and strengthen your advocacy for, delivery, and assessment of digital equity programming and services.



# DIGITAL EQUITY

## Resources for Public Libraries



### PPA Support & Working Group

The ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office (PPA) advocates with and for libraries to ensure their eligibility and inclusion in federal, state, and local programs. PPA's [Digital Equity Resources for Libraries webpage](#) provides information on funding opportunities, including application requirements and what libraries need to know. Library staff can also join PPA's [Digital Inclusion Working Group](#) on ALA Connect to collaborate with colleagues and exchange knowledge around digital equity work.



### Benchmark

The Public Library Association's (PLA) [Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends](#) is a toolkit which provides libraries with data visualizations that allow them to compare their inputs and outputs to peer and nationwide data. Libraries can utilize Benchmark's peer comparison tools to see where their digital services need improvement and make the case for future funding.



### DigitalLearn

At [DigitalLearn.org](#), PLA provides learners with free, self-directed courses in English and Spanish that build basic digital literacy skills like getting started with email, navigating websites and apps, mastering cybersecurity, and more. Library staff can share the resources with their customers to complete independently or use the [Tools and Resources for Trainers](#) to develop their own programming. Libraries can also apply for [PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentives, supported by AT&T](#), which provide financial support and resources for libraries to conduct their own digital literacy workshops using DigitalLearn training materials.



### Project Outcome

PLA's [Project Outcome](#) is a free toolkit that helps libraries understand the impact of essential library services and programs by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes. Libraries can use the Digital Learning Survey to measure customers' increased knowledge, awareness, confidence, and skills. The data dashboards help measure that impact over time and inform decision-making and funding requests.



### Technology Survey Report

Libraries can use the [2023 Public Library Technology Survey Report](#) to inform strategic planning and inform key stakeholders about the digital equity roles libraries can and do play in their communities. PLA distributes the [Public Library Technology Survey](#) every three years to understand technology capacity, resources for patrons, infrastructure, digital literacy, and staffing in U.S. public libraries. Survey participants get free access to their data, as well as peer and national comparisons via Benchmark. The more libraries participate, the stronger the results are for national advocacy.

