DIGITAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN

Strategic Actions

 = "in progress" – action planning in progress

 = "on-track" the action is underway with engaged partners and activities

1.1 Leverage the network shared by public institutions to extend free Wi-Fi service into low-income neighborhoods.

Lead: Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC)

Title: Neighborhod Free Wi-Fi Project	**Lead Partner**: Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC)	
Activity Description: Investigate opportunities, build partnerships and implement a pilot WiFi project that leverages the network shared by public institutions.		
Funding opportunity. As part of the initial scoping effort, the MHCRC, in partnership with the City of Portland Office for Community Technology and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability investigated partnership and project opportunities that might qualify for Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research (PAWR) grant. The PAWR program is a joint effort by the National Science Foundation and a wireless Industry Consortium to create city-scale testing platforms to accelerate fundamental research on wireless communication and networking technologies. This $100 million public-private partnership funding opportunity is run by US Ignite, Inc. and Northeastern University.	2017	
Pilot community WiFi project. WiFi networks are an effective way to address the lack of in-home internet for underserved populations. The MHCRC began investigating options, along with Multnomah County IT and Multnomah County Education Service District (MESD), to leverage the network shared by public institutions to extend free WiFi service into low-income neighborhoods. While working to develop an overall, long-term plan for the area, the MHCRC is interested in supporting pilot neighborhood WiFi projects that experiment with different technological solutions. MHCRC staff convened meetings with stakeholders to identify public institutional capacity and assets for a pilot project and to conduct walk-outs of potential pilot sites. Next in the process is an IGA between the MHCRC and MESD to fund the capital equipment costs associated with a pilot.	2018	
	2019	

1.2 Leverage City/County assets and regulatory authority to incent broadband providers to expand low-cost internet access.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology, Multnomah County

Title: Phase I – Research and advise on City/County asset management policies and regulatory authority	**Lead Partner**: City of Portland Office for Community Technology (OCT)	
Activity Description: OCT will continue to expand its expertise in right-of-way and City asset management public policy best practices. Findings and recommendations will be developed and shared with City and County staff in order to provide elected officials with a strategic direction to guide public policy development and allocation of public resources toward more digitally inclusive efforts.		
Through research, OCT began exploring public benefit funding options, such as a Digital Equity Fee (i.e. Google Franchise), a universal 1% service fee (envisioned in the Broadband Strategic Plan), franchise fee credits, grant programs, etc., to support the expansion of low-cost internet access programs by broadband providers. OCT discussed low-cost internet service offerings – the positive benefits and areas for improvement - with key CenturyLink and Comcast representatives.	2017	
OCT and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) worked with Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Eudaly on principles for negotiating agreements with wireless companies' potential 5G network attachments on city infrastructure and use of the ROW. The principles emphasized digital inclusion as a moral and economic imperative for the City and alignment with DEAP, along with fair compensation from private parties for use of public property.	2018	
	2019	

1.3 Create (or locate) web--based inventory of broadband service options (searchable by address) that identifies lowest -cost options for residents.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology

Title: The Cost of Internet Connectivity at Home	**Lead Partner**: Citizens Utility Board	
Activity Description: An integral component of a digitally inclusive community is access to broadband at home. For several years, the Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) developed, hosted and maintained an online database resource that allowed Oregon residents to identify telecommunications providers serving their neighborhood. While extremely valuable		

to Oregon consumers, the CUB Connects program however, was difficult to resource and maintain; requiring dedicated staff to research and update provider services and rates that were changing continuously. As a result, CUB hasn't been able to dedicate the resources and staff to keeping the database updated. Luckily, there are local and national options currently available to fill the void.	
CUB, along with OCT staff, Free Geek and other DIN supporting members, began researching local and national databases that allow residents to search for broadband service options by home address.	2017
A resource list of local and national databases, ranked according to how up-to-date and accurate the information provided by the database is, is being incorporated in the DIN's new Resource Database project (see SA 2.1). The resource list will be actively shared with community-based organizations working with underserved communities to assist with in-home broadband adoption for their clients. The information is intended to increase awareness of affordable in-home broadband service options and increase in-home broadband adoption rates by target population groups.	2018
	2019

1.4 Expand participation of business, government and residents in computer recycling programs that repurpose devices for use by low-income residents.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology

Title: Keep It Local - Used Technology Recycling Program	**Lead Partner**: Free Geek	
Activity Description: Expand involvement in technology recycling.		
As a result of the reuse program, since November 2016, Free Geek was able to disburse 157 computers to individuals participating in training programs co-sponsored by the Library and the NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellows. The computers are accompanied with basic set-up user training as well as ongoing free tech support and a warranty. In creating a stronger local impact, looking towards the future, Free Geek seeks to build on this cultural shift to become the local standard for large companies and governments technology donations. This City of Portland and Multnomah County are committed partners.		2017
With the help of a letter of support from Mayor Ted Wheeler, Free Geek expanded business and government participation in its computer recycling program. Throughout the year, Free Geek increased the number of corporate and consumer e-waste pick-ups by 50%. Through continued active engagement with the businesses and government, Free Geek hopes to ensure a continuous supply of devices that can then be repurposed back into the community.		2018
		2019

1.5 Design and implement an affordable housing digital equity pilot project.

Lead: Home Forward

Title: Addressing the Digital Divide - Computer literacy + Internet Access = More Opportunity	**Lead Partner**: Home Forward	
Activity Description: Home Forward is piloting digital literacy trainings at affordable housing communities.		
After conducting door-to-door surveys of residents, Home Forward began providing digital literacy trainings at Stephen's Creek Crossing followed by classes at Humboldt Gardens a few weeks later. Participants included a cross section of the low–income residents, including young adults, seniors, and people who spoke a language other than English. To date all 15 participants received a certificate of completion and their own desktop computer (provided by Free Geek). The second series of classes is taking place at Stephens Creek Crossing and a second series is in planning at Humboldt Gardens. The classes were designed in response to 91 resident survey responses, in which respondents agreed that the internet was important to them, but it wasn't affordable, and few had computer access at home or were receiving direct internet service. Home Forward is using the needs assessment survey at other affordable housing properties throughout Multnomah County. Additionally, at least one housing resident at each of the locations, who participated in the class and displayed advanced skill/knowledge, will be hired (at $15/hr.) and trained as teachers to lead future classes. It is anticipated that these 'resident teachers' will develop leadership skills and help ensure the project's sustainability. The first volunteer teacher shared that due to domestic violence trauma in her past she tended to be more introverted. But she agreed to take on this challenge and is doing an excellent job. The participants respond well to her as she is a neighbor and she is learning to be a leader. The classes are structured to be an introduction to computers and the internet and include computer basics, learning to use email, and how to use the Library's website.

The digital literacy trainings at the housing authority locations was made possible because of a partnership between the Library and Free Geek. Both the Library and Free Geek hosted a Digital Inclusion Fellow, sponsored by NTEN. The Fellows designed and implement the digital literacy training program, coined "Earn-a-Computer', provided to Home Forward residents. After completing the 5-week digital literacy training, housing residents received a free computer along with support to sign up for low-cost home internet service and a year's worth of technical support.

Because the NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellowship, which has been essential to the implementation of the pilot program, ends in June 2017, Home Forward is exploring additional partnership and funding opportunities with the Library and other community partners to make the pilot program permanent. Home Forward is evaluating using | 2017 |

Home Forward staff to lead classes at the various property locations as a part of their normal work in addition to the volunteer teacher model. Having inventoried all their sites, Home Forward is examining how the infrastructure can be brought to older properties, which are not already wired or have WiFi or computer labs available. Home Forward is working with various broadband providers to investigate opportunities to provide affordable internet to residents.	
Comcast Internet Essentials (IE), a low-cost internet service designed to encourage adoption, is engaging in and looking to contribute to the larger digital inclusion narrative through research. Comcast IE and Home Forward are partnering on a research project to help understand how internet in the home, as opposed to computer labs, impacts the lives of public housing residents. Through a survey of public housing residents, Comcast IE and Home Forward hope to identify a cohort of residents that would benefit from receiving additional supports, i.e. free in-home internet service, free computing device and tech support, and/or digital literacy training and support. The survey of residents is expected to take place fall 2018, with plans to identify and engage a cohort of residents beginning in 2019. Cohort participants will be tracked and asked to self-report outcomes as a result of the program on health, employment, finance, civic/social engagement and academics.	2018
	2019

1.6 Design and implement a digital equity pilot project for the homeless community.

Lead: Multnomah County Library, Multnomah County

Title: Learning Pathways at Central City Concern Employment Access Center (EAC)	Lead Partner: Multnomah County Library	
Activity Description: Pilot digital literacy program for homeless community.		
The Library is investigating opportunities to expand and improve upon its existing Employment Access Center (EAC) program, which offers a computer lab with job-seeker resources. Clients of the EAC include people experiencing homelessness or living in transitional housing, many of whom have been referred to the EAC by case managers or program staff. Prior to the implementation of Learning Pathways, the EAC was an under-utilized lab space where volunteers identified the need to provide technology learning activities for clients but were not equipped to do so with little to no existing support in place. The Learning Pathways program allows staff and volunteers to enroll clients in a structured series of self-guided modules at skill levels determined by assessment scores. Additionally, as most of the learning is self-directed, volunteers aren't required to possess extensive knowledge in specific topics as would be required by a course instructor which makes volunteer training and sustaining support for the EAC more feasible.	2017

In 2018 the Library and Free Geek engaged in outreach to the manager and employment specialists from the Employment Access Center (EAC), leading to a partnership to teach Earn-a-Computer classes in the summer of 2018. Six participants from this training completed digital literacy training and received laptop computers. After the success of the class, Central City Concern, the Library, and Free Geek have met to plan additional Earn-a-Computer classes at the EAC. The partners will also work together the raise EAC staff awareness of Library and Free Geek technology training opportunities available to EAC clients. In addition to these efforts Free Geek will work to provide Central City Concern with volunteer referrals for the EAC to train clients in technology skills, gain work experience, and learn of opportunities to receive a laptop through volunteer work.	2018
	2019

2.1 Create and maintain a searchable, web--based database of digital inclusion programs, services, activities and training tools for use by community organizations.

Lead: Multnomah County Library

Title: Digital Inclusion Resource Database	**Lead Partner**: Multnomah County Library
Activity Description: Through the community engagement process to develop the DEAP, DIN members discovered that there are programs, services and training tools already developed and available locally, however community-based organizations (CBOs) serving disadvantaged communities had trouble tracking what was available, how to best access these resources and how to connect their constituencies to these services. This strategic action activity will create a searchable, web-based database of digital inclusion programs, services, activities and training tools for use by CBOs. Many local organizations, such as Portland Community Media, MetroEast Community Media, Free Geek, Worksystems, Multnomah County Library and others that provide digital inclusion programs, services and tools have expressed strong support for participating in this project. These organizations have committed to providing and maintaining information about their services in the database. As a result, CBOs such as Home Forward, Human Solutions, Living Cully, Rosewood Initiative, Coalition of Communities of Color, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization and many more can expand their culturally appropriate service offerings by having access to digital inclusion programs, services and tools to better serve their target populations.	
The Library developed a detailed plan for how to accomplish this project and received grant funding from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission through the MHCRC's Community Technology Grants program.	2017
Multnomah County Library created a searchable, web-based database and location-aware map of digital inclusion training, free WiFi, low or no cost computers, and public computing centers, for use by CBOs. Digital inclusion providers participating in the project are committed to:	2018

• Maintaining up-to-date profiles in the database to share and locate services, events, activities, training tools and curriculum offered; • Using the database as a clearinghouse of digital equity resources to leverage the work and best practices developed by digital equity providers; • Identifying and engaging other organizations that are digital inclusion providers, to contribute their profiles and resources to the database, and; • Championing the resource to community-based organizations to use to better serve their target populations. The database was also designed to serve as a de facto website for the DIN and to shine a light on and enhance (with visibility, support, and partner connections) the progress being made on DEAP Strategic Actions in support of the plan's desired outcomes. The DIN Resource Database is expected to go live in Fall 2018.	
	2019

2.2 Compile connectivity data at Affordable Housing units.

Lead: Portland Housing Bureau, Home Forward

Title: Affordable Housing Connectivity Data	**Lead Partner**: Home Forward	
Activity Description: Develop a process to identifying individuals who don't have the resources to subscribe to internet service at home, buy a computer and get training on their own.		
In partnership with the NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellowship program, Home Forward created a survey designed to assess affordable housing community residents' digital literacy experience, internet use, device ownership and interest in digital literacy training. Three affordable housing communities were selected to pilot the data collection survey: Stephens Creek Crossing in SW Portland, Humboldt Gardens in NE Portland, and public housing properties in Rockwood/Gresham. Housing community residents are hired (at $15/hr.) to go door to door, asking their neighbors to participate in the survey and the opportunity to attend digital literacy trainings and get a free computer. The collective response rate over the first two sites completed was 43%. The properties currently being surveyed represent a broad cross-section in terms of geographic location, the type of community (families, elderly, etc.) and racial/ethnic diversity and, when complete, will have reached 500 units. Once all surveys are gathered and analyzed, Home Forward hopes to discern trends in response rates, which can be addressed and eventually used across the entire portfolio of 6,500 units.	2017

Comcast Internet Essentials (IE), a low-cost internet service designed to encourage adoption, is engaging in and looking to contribute to the larger digital inclusion narrative through research. Comcast IE and Home Forward are partnering on a research project to help understand how internet in the home, as opposed to computer labs, impacts the lives of public housing residents. Through a survey of public housing residents, Comcast IE and Home Forward hope to identify a cohort of residents that would benefit from receiving additional supports, i.e. free in-home internet service, free computing device and tech support, and/or digital literacy training and support. The survey of residents is expected to take place fall 2018, with plans to identify and engage a cohort of residents beginning in 2019. Cohort participants will be tracked and asked to self-report outcomes as a result of the program on health, employment, finance, civic/social engagement and academics.	2018
	2019

2.3 Expand availability of culturally specific digital literacy curriculum.

Lead: Multnomah County Library

Title: Earn-a-Computer Digital Literacy Curriculum	**Lead Partner**: Multnomah County Library, Free Geek, MetroEast Community Media	
Activity Description: Develop and share culturally specific digital literacy training curriculum.		
Multnomah County Library, in partnership with Free Geek, the NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellowship program, MetroEast Community Media and other community-based organizations serving marginalized populations, developed a five-session computer literacy course that results in participants receiving a refurbished desktop computer with one-year of tech support upon course completion. The digital literacy portion of the course is aimed at developing core computer skills, connecting these skills to relevant content and services online, computer ownership and low cost home broadband adoption. Training topics range from a basic introduction to the computer, mouse and keyboard; to getting started with the web and email/email safety; and finally, "Getting Started with your Free Geek Computer" and "Connecting to affordable broadband options." The trainings focus on the needs of low-income individuals and immigrant and refugee communities, many of whom speak Somali, Spanish, and Russian. The program delivered more than 1,561 hours of digital literacy training to 157 participants. 87% of participants were English language learners, 54% had no high school diploma/GED and 95% had a household income less than $30,000. Presentation slides and other program documents designed for the Earn-a-Computer program were made available in three languages and select bilingual staff of participating CBOs have been trained in digital literacy instruction. The Library and Free Geek are committed to sharing the culturally appropriate digital literacy curriculum developed with other digital literacy training organizations.	2017	

Multnomah County Library continued its partnership with Free Geek and Metro East Community Media to evolve the program and implement an updated computer literacy course that provides participants a refurbished laptop computer and one year of tech support upon completion. In addition to the re-developed five-session course, MetroEast Community Media developed a six-session course course available in up to three languages per class while Multnomah County Library took an existing eight-session volunteer-led digital literacy course in Russian and transformed it into a class where participants received laptops upon completion. In its second year, the program taught 59 sessions of Earn-a-Computer at eight host locations totaling over 1,000 training hours and 88 laptops provided. The classes were available in five languages: Somali, Spanish, Russian, Karen, and English through both translation from community based organizations and native speaking instructors.	2018
	2019

3.1 Strengthen the Digital Inclusion Network (DIN) as a diverse, countywide, community--based work group to guide, advocate for and support DEAP implementation.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology, Multnomah County Library, City of Gresham, Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

Title: Outreach & Engagement	**Lead Partner**: Multnomah County Library, City of Portland Office for Community Technology	
Activity Description: Grow the Digital Inclusion Network to include a broad cross section of community-based organizations that are representative of DEAP target populations and engage DIN members in policy/advocacy discussions that build leadership supporting DEAP goals.		
The DIN, currently 35 members strong, committed to working with OCT and Library/County staff to pursue opportunities for greater community engagement. DIN members brainstormed efforts to re-engage many of the diverse community groups that participated in the development of the DEAP. In addition, existing DIN members began actively identifying and engaging with new culturally relevant organizations in order to grow the collective community working to end the digital divide.	2017	
The Digital Inclusion Network (DIN) grew to over 45 organizations. New members include ChickTech, Mozilla, Outside the Frame, Community Works Project, State of Oregon WIC program, and Portland YouthBuilders. Individual meetings were held with representatives of Sprint $1Million Project, City of Portland Housing Bureau, Verde, Catholic Charities, City of Portland Office of Community & Civic Life, Prosper Portland, Portland Film Office, Innovate Oregon, Oregon Public Utilities Commission, Verizon, and Portland State University Digital Inclusion Program.	2018	

Outreach for the 2018 Digital Inclusion Summit included efforts to engage, or re-engage, community-based social service organizations, philanthropic, health, and technology/ business communities.

Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries for the Multnomah County Library, delivered the 2018 Oregon Technology Awards keynote address. Oehlke called on the hundreds of tech industry and business leaders in the room to prioritize diversity in their workforces and to embrace universal design so that products and services are created in ways that reduce fundamental barriers and provide accessibility for the broadest spectrum of people.

DIN meeting agendas included time for policy/advocacy updates and discussion. Topics discussed included consumer privacy and security protections; Net Neutrality, small-cell/wireless, education broadband spectrum, and unbundled network rules; and, e-Rate, Lifeline, Connected Care Pilot, and FirstNet programs.

Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) was an active advocate for digital equity and inclusion public policy matters at the local, state and federal level. CUB was instrumental in bring forward the state Net Neutrality bill and a strong support of the Lifeline program

Matthew Timberlake, IT Project and Portfolio manager for Multnomah County Library, gave an Ignite speech on digital equity as part of the Technology Association of Oregon's TAO Ignite Tech V9 series.

With guidance from OCT staff, the City of Portland continued to prioritize digital equity and inclusion through public policy advocacy efforts. The City filed comments in numerous FCC proceedings in support of: Net Neutrality, efforts to promote deployment of wireline and wireless infrastructure while preserving local authority and preserving the LifeLine program.

The MHCRC, as part of a local government coalition, filed comments in various FCC proceedings in support of Net Neutrality and local authority to manage the public rights-of-way.

	2019

3.2 Convene an annual digital inclusion summit to provide an update on DEAP implementation, share learnings, network and recognize good work.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology, MHCRC, Multnomah County Library, City of Gresham

Title: 2017 Digital Inclusion Summit	Lead Partner: Multnomah County Library, Citizen's Utility Board	
Activity Description: Host an annual digital inclusion summit designed to offer learning/sharing opportunities for elected officials, DIN members, CBOs, industry representatives.		
Planning is underway for the first Digital Inclusion Summit under the DEAP. Planning workgroup participants include representatives from the Multnomah County Library, Citizen's Utility Board, MHCRC, OCT, Free Geek, City of Gresham and Worksystems. Summit topics under discussion include Reporting Back: progress on DEAP goals; The New FCC: impacts on digital equity; Digital Literacy for challenged populations such as homeless, re-entry from incarceration, homebound, new immigrants.		2017
On May 10, 2018, the DIN hosted the first Digital Inclusion Summit under the DEAP. The theme for the full-day event was ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY and included a series of featured speakers, panel discussions, and networking breaks to help advance collective efforts to build a digitally connected, prosperous community. Thanks to the production support of Open Signal the event was live streamed and is available for replay on OCT's website. Over 120 individuals attended throughout the day representing 69 unique organizations. Featured speakers included City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, Bradley Cohen from Mozilla, Vailey Oehlke with Multnomah County Library, U.S. Senator Ron Wyden via a video message, and Multnomah County Board Chair Deborah Kafoury. Three panel discussions focused on workforce pipeline development, the impact of digital exclusion on health outcomes, and public policy that impact digital inclusion efforts. Participants surveyed after the event expressed excitement and interest in wanting to do more towards identifying concrete ways to address digital equity.		2018
		2019

3.3 Expand public and private funding for digital equity focused projects.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology, Multnomah County, MHCRC

Title: Explore Funding Opportunities	Lead Partner: City of Portland Office for Community Technology	
Activity Description: Create opportunities to learn about funding programs, building partnerships and leverage DIN support for grant applications.		
OCT is leading efforts to build relationships/partnerships and improve communication among DIN members about potential funding opportunities. Time at monthly DIN meetings was set aside for DIN members to bring forward funding opportunities for group discussion and collaboration. In addition, OCT staff led three Third Thursday workshops on digital equity issues with the philanthropic community through Grantmakers of Oregon and SW Washington. OCT and the MHCRC submitted letters supporting Free Geek's application for grant funding to support a digital inclusion manager staff position.	2017	
City of Portland Mayor Wheeler provided Free Geek with a letter of support Free Geek's technology donations program. Last year, Free Geek increased the number of corporate and consumer e-waste pick-ups by 50%. OCT submitted a letter supporting the Portland Bureau of Transportation's (PBOT) Smart Cities Transportation and Growth Management Plan application for ODOT funding. In order to effectively address equity barriers and create a digitally-connected community, the City of Portland's Smart City Plan TGM team committed to engaging the DIN in the development of the plan to ensure that the strategies and systems for managing technology and data integration in the transportation network move us towards closing the digital divide, not further contributing to it. Multnomah County Library hired an equity and inclusion manager. Multnomah County Library became the recipient of a Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission Community Technology Grant in the amount of $91,000 to develop an online resource database for the DIN. Free Geek hired a digital inclusion manager and digital inclusion program associate. Free Geek received funding from First Tech Federal Credit Union to help increase capacity to provide Portland-area kids with free computers.	2018	

Free Geek received funding from Olseth Family Foundation to support staff positions and to help further develop Earn-a-Computer curriculum and expand class offerings. MetroEast received funding from the Collins Foundation, Ninety-nine Girlfriends, and East Metro STEAM Partnership to support Earn-a-Computer staff positions, curriculum development, and expanded class offerings. Open Signal, with grant support secured from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission ($137,000), the Collins Foundation and the Portland Film Office, launched the Black Filmmaker Fellowship, an in-depth workforce diversity program. PNCA Make+Think+Code received funding from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission ($130,000)to teach video production skills and techniques to women and people of color. Once trained, the students will then record Make+Think+Code workshops with a focus on showcasing diverse communities learning and engaging and building careers around emerging technology. Portland Public Schools (PPS) became the recipient of a Sprint 1Million Project award to provide mobile hotspots to high school students who do not have reliable home internet. The PPS Information Technology Department, Office of High Schools, and Office of Strategic Partnerships is preparing to serve 700 students through this program in the 2018-19 school year.	
	2019

Title: MHCRC Community Grants	**Lead Partner**: Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission	
Activity Description: Capital funding for digital equity related projects in Multnomah County		
The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) continues to be a leading funder of digital equity related projects in Multnomah County. MHCRC Community Grants are focused on serving traditionally underserved, ethnically diverse, and special needs populations (i.e. Hispanic, African American, Native American, immigrant and refugee, low-income, girls and women (equal opportunity), youth, English language learners, etc.) in gaining access to technology and the training to use it effectively. Through a 50% matching funds requirement, the MHCRC Community Grants leverage the grantees' and their project partners' funds to ensure successful implementation of the grant projects. While the MHCRC plans to continue its work to reduce digital equity gaps through the Community Grants program, the funding under this program remains restricted under federal law to support only project capital costs. Because staff resources are		2017

critical to successfully implement digital equity projects and initiatives, the MHCRC is a steadfast supporter of collaborations among funders to support digital equity programs. As such, the MHCRC, through Grantmakers of Oregon and SW Washington, a community of funders working to strengthen and expand philanthropy, the MHCRC engages the philanthropic community in discussions about the importance of digital equity in our community.	
The MHCRC Community Grants provides funds for technology projects to community organizations, libraries, schools, and local public agencies throughout Multnomah County. Funding opportunities include the TechSmart Initiative for Student Success and Community Technology Grants. The MHCRC oversaw implementation and compliance for 33 grant-funded projects during the year. The Community Technology Grants program granted over $668,000 for eight new community-based projects that will leverage nearly $3 million in matching resources. Thus far, the MHCRC TechSmart Initiative has granted over $11.5 million to six public school districts in Multnomah County for teacher training supports and technology in classrooms. After multiple years of project implementation in three of the six districts, the data is revealing promising instruction that uses technology to support students of color, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities.	2018
	2019

4.1 Support initiatives to assist people from underrepresented populations to prepare for, find and create jobs in the technology economy.

Lead: City of Portland Office for Community Technology, Multnomah County Library, City of Gresham

Title: TechRise PDX	**Lead Partner**: Worksystems	
Activity Description: TechRise PDX is a 4-year, $4 million grant, funded through the U.S Department of Labor.		
TechRise PDX is an industry-supported training program that helps diverse young adults (18 – 29) access training, education credentials and work experience to secure jobs in the Tech industry. In the U.S., 1 in 20 job openings is a Tech job – that's nearly 8,000 jobs in the Portland metro area over the next decade. But local talent from diverse backgrounds, including women, are not benefitting from this opportunity. TechRise PDX will train over 450 local residents through June 2020. Training includes career coaching, culturally-specific mentoring, industry-specific training and supportive services intended to result in enhanced employment opportunities. Currently in its first year of implementation, the program is recruiting participants now through intentional outreach to diverse communities. The TechRise PDX team and Worksystems are also meeting regularly with partnering industry associations (Technology Association of Oregon, the Energy Sector Security Consortium, and the Pacific NW Manufacturing Partnership) to develop a collaborative TechRise PDX program across the metro area.	2017	

Title: Free Geek Training Partnerships	Lead Partner: Free Geek	
Activity Description: Continuing education classes that build a diverse, local workforce pipeline		
Free Geek partnered with Portland YouthBuilders, Central City Concern, IRCO, and Impact Northwest amongst other technology and job training programs. Volunteers, interns, and students participate in classes led by Free Geek staff to learn both hard technical skills as well as soft skills around employment.		2017
Free Geek partnered with the Technology Association of Oregon to host a lunch and learn focused on the challenges of diversity and inclusion in the tech sector. Free Geek and Cloudability facilitated a conversation about how tech companies can be more inclusive—by supporting and hiring diverse candidates and by addressing workplace culture. Free Geek offered 396 technology education classes. Free Geek volunteers powered on-site classes in Python and Javascript programming, command line, hardware and Linux fundamentals, digital privacy and safety topics like Blockchain, WiFi security, social media privacy, and more. Free Geek's volunteer instructors taught 1,854 students over 3,966 classroom hours.		2018
		2019

Title: Black Filmmaker Fellowship	Lead Partner: Open Signal	
Activity Description: Create a sustainable year-long, deep and transformative career advancement program for Black filmmakers. A study by the University of Southern California found that of the top 1,223 American directors working between 2007 and 2017, only 64 (or 5%) were Black. Of those 64 directors, only 4 were women.		
Open Signal developed a project plan and applied for grant funding.		2017
With grant support secured from the Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission ($137,000), the Collins Foundation and the Portland Film Office, Open Signal launched the Black Filmmaker Fellowship. The program provides transformative learning and career advancement to six emerging Black filmmakers based in the Portland metro area. For a full year, these emerging filmmaker fellows will be provided with in-depth training led by national mentors, practical experience, film promotional support, and career advancement opportunities with the goal of creating greater diversity in the film and video industry, and ultimately producing new media work that illuminates African-American experiences.		2018
		2019

4.2 Support STEAM initiatives for K–12 students.

Lead: School Districts, Multnomah County Library

Title: STEAM/STEM Skills Support and Collaboration	**Lead Partner**: Portland Public Schools	
Activity Description: Support K-12 student access to learning opportunities for STEAM skills. Provide K-12 educators with increased resources and professional knowledge to teach STEAM skills.		
Portland Public Schools pursued several opportunities to support STEAM/STEM learning. PPS has created a STEAM framework that is being used by schools to create and evaluate action plans. George Middle School and Boise-Eliot/Humboldt K-8 are STEM Schools, with Vernon K-8 and Ockley Green Middle School becoming STEM Schools in 2017-2018. Astor K-8 will add a STEM instructional coach position 2017-2018 to teach STEM electives and work with teachers on integrating STEM at all grade levels. Peninsula K-5 has added a STEM teacher. Both George and Ockley Green Middle Schools and Boise-Eliot/Humboldt K-8 have begun implementing Project Lead The Way curriculum for STEM electives. All PPS teachers have access to Oregon Connections, which matches classrooms with research scientists that visit classrooms virtually. Through a new partnership with PSU, research scientists visit high school science classrooms virtually. A partnership with Portland 5 and National Geographic brought students and scientists together at the Newmark Theater. In fall 2016, 700 middle school students from Title 1 schools met a Jet Propulsion Lab Engineer and learned about the Mars Rover. The program was streamed to all Portland Public Schools. In spring 2017, 750 high school and middle school students met a physical anthropologist and learned about hominid evolution. Multnomah County Library has supported STEAM/STEM learning for K-12 students through a number of efforts from MCL's Creative Learning Spaces Coordinator, Rockwood Library makerspace staff and School Corps. These include hosting professional development opportunities for educators on STEAM activities, bringing portable makerspace workshops into classrooms and hosting East Metro STEAM Partnership's Youth Advisory Council to support their work guiding the partnership on STEAM initiative in East County. MCL is also presenting LEAP into Science to SUN after-school programs and offers 6 LEAP into Science kits that SUN sites can borrow to present the program, using a teacher from their own staff.	2017	
Madison High School held its second annual Applied Arts Fair to showcase student projects in the school's Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways of 3D design, graphic design, engineering, and computer science.	2018	

Woodlawn Elementary held its annual STEAM night for school families to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math learning activities. Computer Science students from Benson, Franklin, Lincoln, Grant, Madison, Roosevelt and Wilson high schools demonstrated their class projects at the PPS Administration Building.	
	2019

5.1 Develop a strategy for funding internet services, devices and training in affordable housing projects.

Lead: Home Forward, Portland Housing Bureau

Title: Funding Support for Housing Projects	**Lead Partner**: Home Forward	
Activity Description: Identify and implement strategies that give affordable housing residents access to free or low-cost internet access, devices and the training to use them effectively.		
Home Forward is working with broadband providers, which are currently offering low-cost internet service, on a more comprehensive approach to providing households with affordable service. In addition, Home Forward is evaluating its ability to cover residents' fees to directly access private sector services.	2017 ⟳	
Home Forward partnered with the City of Portland to gain membership in ConnectHomeUSA, an initiative grounded in building public-private partnerships to address the digital divide in public housing across the U.S. Through the membership, Home Forward and the City have access to monthly webinars on national efforts and best practices and mentorship to help guide progress. Because of Home Forward's and the City's commitment and progress toward digital equity countywide, Home Forward is serving as a model and mentor for other communities participating in the initiative. Multnomah County Library and Free Geek also engaged as community partners and stakeholders in the ConnectHomeUSA initiative. The library coordinates with the American Library Association (ALA), which has been a partner with HUD and EveryoneOn and the ConnectHome initiative since it first launched in 2015 under then-Secretary Castro. This year the initiative was rebranded as ConnectHomeUSA and added 29 more communities, including Portland/Multnomah County. The library partners with local PHAs and other community organizations including Free Geek to provide tools and training so that residents can maximize broadband access to advanced job skills, complete homework assignments, pursue online learning and certifications, and protect their privacy and security of personal information as they expand their online activity. Multnomah County Library locations offer free public access to technology and training that ranges from conducting an online job search	2018 ⟳	

to online privacy and security to coding. Additionally, training is flexibly provided as-needed, by appointment, through formal classes in the library, and off-site through, mobile labs in housing locations.	
	2019

5.2 Engage business, community, neighborhood and government leaders to take action on DEAP implementation.

Lead: Digital Inclusion Network

Title: Inspiring Action	**Lead Partner**: Digital Inclusion Network participating organizations	
Activity Description: Engage Business, community, neighborhood and government leaders so that they are aware of the DEAP and are inspired to take action.		
Digital Inclusion Network (DIN) members have committed to taking the DEAP 'to the street' by regularly engaging business, community, neighborhood and government leaders to take action on DEAP implementation. At the monthly DIN meetings, DIN members report out on contacts made and share information about what others are doing in the way of digital inclusion in the community. For example, three Earn-a-Computer partnerships were made possible through networking opportunities at DIN meetings. Digital Inclusion: Why Access for All Matters More Than Ever. Multnomah County Library's Digital Inclusion Fellow and NTEN's Digital Inclusion Fellowship Manager presented an overview and updates about the national Fellowship program that has digital inclusion and adult digital literacy as its primary goals. Participants learned about NTEN's work in the digital inclusion space and heard first-hand how it's having an impact locally. The discussion included tips and best practices for educating colleagues and constituents on digital equity and the importance of access for all. Presenters and participants explored the cross-cutting relevancy of digital inclusion in mission-driven work. Presenters: Charly Eaton, Multnomah County Library Digital Inclusion Fellow, and Drew Pizzolato, NTEN Digital Inclusion Campaign Manager. The event, organized by PDX Tech4Good and held at the Central Library, was attended by nonprofit professionals, civil servants, digital equity activists and library volunteers. Audience comments included, "insightful presentation," "lots of good information," "very informative and thought provoking."	2017	
DIN members continued to use monthly DIN meetings to report out on contacts made and to share information about what others are doing in the community. DIN members find this to be a useful way to build awareness, share learnings, identify new partnership opportunities, and most of all, inspire action.	2018	

Individual meetings were held with representatives of Sprint $1Million Project, City of Portland Housing Bureau, Verde, Catholic Charities, City of Portland Office of Community & Civic Life, Prosper Portland, Portland Film Office, Innovate Oregon, Oregon Public Utilities Commission, Verizon, and Portland State University Digital Inclusion Program. OCT staff presented *Digital Equity: The Next Generation of Broadband Planning* to the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council. OCT staff participated on a panel presentation of Portland's Smart Cities Goal and Priorities Framework at the 2018 Global Tech Jam conference in Portland. The presentation highlighted Portland's commitment to equity and inclusion when developing, engaging or supporting Smart Cities policies, plans or projects.	
	2019

5.3 Develop a digital equity lens for public officials to use when updating or creating public policy.

Lead: Multnomah County, Multnomah County Library, Office for Community Technology

Title: Digital Equity Assessment Tool	**Lead Partner**: Multnomah County Library (reporting for Multnomah County cross-departmental activity)	
Activity Description: Create a digital equity assessment tool that can assess and evaluate government or social service programs or project at the operational level to determine who benefits and who is burdened. An Equity Lens is a set of questions to be asked as part of developing, implementing, and evaluating a policy, program or project. These questions help to diagnose barriers and address issues of access, diversity, equity and inclusion.		
Multnomah County Library hired an equity and inclusion manager. A County IT Leadership Academy cohort embarked on a digital equity community survey project to help inform the development of a tool to assess whether County programs or projects are accessible to all. The cohort envisions the County developing a tool and score system that would highlight the risk of digital equity gaps.		2017
Building upon the Leadership Academy cohort work, the Library's Equity and Inclusion Manager used the framework of Multnomah County Equity and Empowerment Lens and the City of Portland's Racial Equity		2018

Roadmap assessment tool, to begin development of a Digital Equity Assessment and Lens intended to be used by public agencies in decision making about technology-related programs and practices. The assessment tool is intended to create an awareness in an organization about the impact of service delivery models on clients, who lack internet access, accessible and available technological devices, and digital training literacy. With County Library Board support and staff leadership, the hope is that the tool will lead to process redesign, training, changes to outreach and communication efforts, and/or potential technology changes that will help to close any gaps found. In Spring 2018, the initial draft of the assessment and lens was vetted with the DIN. Following several rounds of input and review by the DIN and internal County staff, the Library has plans to pilot it in 2019. In tandem, the City of Portland embarked on process to develop a priority framework, grounded in equity, for its Smart Cities work. OCT staff facilitated a Smart Cities Equity Work Group that led to the creation of a Smart Cities goal and a process to guide City decision-making around investment of resources – staff time, money, assets, etc. – in Smart Cities projects, plans, policies and partnerships. The Digital Equity Action Plan, in addition to the Broadband Strategic Plan, Portland Plan, etc. played a key role in outlining Council goals, priorities and commitments to addressing disparities in the community. As a result, equity was prioritized as the leading element needed in a Smart Cities decision-making structure and process. In June 2018, the Smart City PDX Initiative Priorities Framework was adopted by Portland City Council. The framework includes an explicit and intentional focus on communities of color and communities with disabilities. By leading with race and disability, the City is committing to taking on the root causes of our most challenging problems and to focus where we can have the biggest impact and needs are greatest.	
	2019