

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Multnomah County to partner on a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan. (Ordinance)

Contact name: Mary Beth Henry

Contact phone: 823-5414

Presenter name: Mary Beth Henry

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The City and County have partnered to develop a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan with each agreeing to contribute financial and staff resources. The IGA outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party in this endeavor. An RFP was released in mid-March and a contract for a consultant to assist in developing the Plan is expected to be executed by May.

The Council unanimously adopted the Broadband Strategic Plan in 2011 which calls for eliminating accessibility, literacy and affordability gaps so that everyone has adequate access to information and communications technologies for learning and for preparing for the future – regardless of socioeconomic status, physical disability, language, race, gender or any other characteristics that have been linked with unequal treatment.

At the City and County-sponsored Digital Inclusion Summit in November 2014 the parties agreed on the following goals for future action:

- Increase awareness of digital inclusion's importance and its direct relevance to improving the quality of lives and opportunities for all citizens;
- Reduce the number of people who lack skills, resources, or motivation to engage with digital technology – particularly older and socially excluded populations, jobseekers, and disadvantaged communities;
- Ensure that every child and young person gains information and communications technology and digital participation skills by embedding the use of technology into school and community education curricula;
- Build more responsive public services by using digital media to support the design and delivery of services appropriate for the needs of the disadvantaged groups and communities; and
- Analyze the opportunities and risks for digitally excluded groups and communities arising from the increasingly digitally driven society.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan budget is \$35,000 with the County contributing \$10,000 in cash and additional in-kind resources (staff). No additional resources are requested at this time.

Community impacts and community involvement:

A wide variety of citizens and small businesses will be positively impacted by development and implementation of the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan. The process for developing the plan will include review by the Digital Inclusion Network, a collaboration of public and non-profit organizations devoted to building the region's capacity to close the digital equity gap. Project managers with the City and County will ensure that the broad and diverse voices of the community are represented in the Plan. About 15% of our region's households don't have internet in the home with the percentage rising to 18% for households with income under \$30,000. For Hispanic households the figure rises to 30%. For those who are 65 or older 28%

do not have internet in the home. As access to broadband becomes essential for full participation in society, there is an urgent need to create a targeted, collaborative and local solution to address the digital divide.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

- ☒ YES: Please complete the information below.
☐ NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Amount
100000	MFRB000005	447200	LARF0000	Non-program	Not-relevant	\$10,000