

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Adopt Digital Equity Action Plan and direct the Office for Community Technology to implement the plan with partners (Resolution)

Contact name: Mary Beth Henry

Contact phone: 503-823-5414

Presenter name: Mary Beth Henry

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The Council's adoption of the Broadband Strategic Plan (2011) and Portland Plan (2012) established City policy calling for digital equity in Portland. This Resolution asks Council to adopt the Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) which targets digital access and adoption gaps for excluded and disadvantaged communities, specifically people with low incomes, older adults, communities of color, people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. The DEAP outlines a series of operational and policy proposals for public and private agencies, along with nonprofits, in Portland/Multnomah County to advance the cause of digital equity.

The cost of digital exclusion is great. Without access, full participation in nearly every aspect of American society — from economic success and educational achievement, to positive health outcomes and civic engagement — is compromised.

Multnomah County Libraries is a co-sponsor of DEAP.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

This Resolution is not requesting funding but requires the Office for Community Technology (OCT), part of the Revenue Division, Bureau of Revenue and Financial Services, to develop an implementation plan with partners.

Separately, as part of the FY 2016-17 Budget Request, OCT, through BRFS/OMF submitted a Council consideration request for the estimated cost to implement DEAP.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The DEAP encapsulates the work of the Digital Inclusion Network, a community coalition formed around digital equity. The DEAP community engagement process began with five focus groups for historically underrepresented populations (Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese speakers, people with hearing disabilities and African-Americans) in the summer of 2015 culminating in a Digital Needs and Opportunities Report. Three workshops held in the fall and winter of 2015 brought together a broadband cross-section of community organizations from nonprofit, education, tech industry, internet service providers, affordable housing and local government. The DEAP is a community-driven plan involving approximately 100 people with oversight provided by the Digital Inclusion Network.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Impact Statement for Requested Council Action

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount