

Summary of Duties of the City of Madison Task Force on Digital Inclusion Strategic Priorities:
(Info below, restructured/organized from City documentation to possibly guide development of priorities)
Mark Evans, 29Apr.2021)

Notes:

Creating the Task Force on Digital Inclusion Strategic Priorities.

1. According to the most recent data, 30,000 homes in Dane County don't have internet access at home
2. the COVID-19 Pandemic has increased people's reliance on the Internet, but further exposed the inequalities we have in our communities
3. the Digital Technology Committee's mission is to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Common Council on the City's deployment and use of digital technology consistent with industry and governmental standards including:
 - a. making studies and recommendations relative to the facilitating the provision of internet access to all citizens with special attention to low income families
 - b. realizing additional benefits from and expand utilization of the Metropolitan Unified Fiber Network
 - c. exploring the technological needs of existing and startup businesses
 - d. assisting in the provision of digital infrastructure needs
 - e. facilitate communication with the local information technology community
 - f. assisting in providing high speed, no-cost access for travelers and commuters and
 - g. exploring the feasibility of other public and private investments in 21st century telecommunication technologies, including fiber optics to the home
4. the Education Committee's mission is to serves as a formal channel of communication and policy recommendations regarding issues of shared concern between the City of Madison, the Madison Metropolitan School District, and Dane County
5. the City of Madison provides funds for Digital Inclusion every year in its budget
6. it is likely the City of Madison will see funds from COVID-19 relief money targeted at Digital Inclusion
7. both the Digital Technology Committee and Education Committee wish to work together to develop digital inclusion strategic priorities
8. digital equity is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy
9. digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services
10. elements of inclusion include:
 - a. providing funding opportunities for:
 - i. affordable, robust broadband internet service
 - ii. Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
 - iii. access to digital literacy training
 - iv. quality technical support
 - v. applications
 - vi. provide more opportunities for residents to:
 1. access City services
 2. engage in City government through technology which will enable and encourage
 - a. self-sufficiency
 - b. participation
 - c. collaboration

Task Force on Digital Inclusion Strategic Priorities is hereby created and charged with:

1. working on a report for digital inclusion strategic priorities
2. consisting of the following:
 - five (5) voting members: (need 3 for a quorum)
 - Two (2) members from the Digital Technology Committee, one of which is a member of the Madison Common Council: **Ald. Keith Furman: Chair, Mark H. Evans: Vice Chair**

An Alder (1) from the Education Committee: **Ald. Tag Evers, District 13**

A representative from Madison Metropolitan School District Board: **Savion Castro**

A staff member (1) from Madison Public Library appointed by the Library Director: **Martin Alvarado**

- two (2) Alternate Members:
 - Dane County Supervisor: **Carousel Bayrd**
 - An individual to be appointed by the Library Director
- in the event of a vacancy on the task force, the Digital Technology Committee or Education Committee will appoint replacements to fill vacancies from their respective boards
- the Task Force will be staffed by the IT Department and work is to be finished by July 31, 2021.

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Mark's Notes from 28Apr.2021 Zoom meeting:

Objective of TF: outline digital inclusion priorities; consider:

- ID priorities by geographic areas or demographic groups? Most cost effective intervention approaches? Intervention/action planning to offer subsidies, tuition assistance?, building infrastructure?
- Priorities based on what? Types of need? Affordability areas? Income level?
- Consider targeting efforts that are most sustainable (& how)
- Is there value in offering a framework (such as a 2 dimensional grid?) within which we list categories as a way of clarifying or prioritizing elements we talk about or id resources that aid elements of our work or determine areas of strengths, domain, partner focus? (One reason to create such is as communication tool re. what needs exist vs what is being targeted 1st & why...) Very rough draft example:

		Priority (why):	collab. entities:	target users:	needed resources:
Utility:	Broadband (define speed options)	area access (& tech alternatives w speeds & reliability considerations0			
		last mile			
		within residential (or business) unit			
device access		HW			
		applications			
tech. support					
digital literacy*		Internet use/resources			
		application use			
		security			
other...					

*consider literacy as it may relate differently to K12, post 12, job training, small business development & support, NFPs

Resources Task Force might seek to aid priority development:

- obtaining examples of similar Digital Inclusion work done by other communities (Keith)
- interview/survey City partners re what they are doing/have done & how efforts of others should be integrated [including MMSD, DANEnet, library system, County, other]
- results of City's Dig.Tech. pilot & lessons learned