

Digital Expansion and Inclusion Project Proposal

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Project Name: Digital Expansion and Inclusion: Expand the City's public Wi-Fi network to assist residents in staying connected

Description: The project will expand the City of Madison's public Wi-Fi network in areas of Madison that the Madison Metropolitan School District and the State of Wisconsin Public Service Commission data demonstrate do not have high levels of internet connectivity, as well as, create a ring of Wi-Fi connection points for City field staff to use to support continuity of operations.

The robust outdoor Wi-Fi network will connect City-owned public spaces such as park shelters, City sponsored community centers, and other identified City facilities and make free Wi-Fi available to residents and visitors.

The City will contract with a private internet service provider (ISP) to manage and support the wireless network. The City will provide the fiber by either using existing available dark fiber or building new dark fiber pathways to support the public Wi-Fi network. The ISP will light the laterals for the Wi-Fi network.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, jobs, education, healthcare, banking, shopping, are all being provided via the internet, and those who are unconnected are being left behind. By providing public Wi-Fi to residents, the City will be able to support residents in opportunities to connect, engage, grow, and prosper in today's digital world.

The City will also benefit from a public Wi-Fi network. City staff will be able to use the network in the field which will provide more opportunities for the City to respond to issues, and deliver services more efficiently and effectively in real-time to residents.

Cost Range: \$2million - \$4million depending on scope of project.