

Department: County Assets **Program Contact:** Tracey Massey
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

The Digital Access program partners with internal and external stakeholder groups Countywide to address community disparities in digital access and affordability. To support this program, the County funds a limited duration position project coordinator within the Department of County Assets. The coordinator will track barriers to internet access throughout the County, identify and assess strategies to address these barriers, investigate grant opportunities, and align the County's planning with community organizations, other municipalities, nonprofits, and advocacy groups.

Program Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the essential function of the internet in everyday life, as many aspects of school, work, healthcare, and government services continue to operate online. Yet an estimated 33,000 Multnomah County households do not have broadband internet access; another 38,000 households access the internet only by phone.

In 2020, DCA completed a broadband feasibility study in partnership with five cities within the County that identified equity gaps throughout the County. The feasibility study found that broadband internet is unavailable to approximately 2,800 County households. Where broadband internet is available, low income residents are less likely to be connected as the cost of home internet presents a major barrier.

In response, the Digital Access program will develop a roadmap communicating Multnomah County's strategic actions to support community connectivity. This effort will be closely coordinated across County departments, with the City of Portland, and with other public, private, and nonprofit groups Countywide. Pending Board feedback, the Digital Access program will deliver on these activities to address the dual challenges of infrastructure availability and broadband affordability for specific community populations. This work is led by community input, data-informed, and intended to dovetail with State and Federal revenue streams for broadband and digital equity.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY21 Actual	FY22 Budgeted	FY22 Estimate	FY23 Offer
Output	Roadmap communicating strategies for Multnomah County's digital access initiative.	N/A	1	1	1
Outcome	Board presentation and approval to proceed with activities identified in Roadmap.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

Performance Measures Descriptions

Output: Roadmap communicating strategies for Multnomah County's digital access initiative.
 Outcome: Board presentation and approval to proceed with activities identified in Roadmap.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$165,592
Total GF/non-GF	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$165,592
Program Total:	\$150,000		\$165,592	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165,592
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165,592

Explanation of Revenues

This program offer is funded by American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2022: 78000B Digital Access Coordinator

Funding for this program offer changed from one-time-only general funds to one-time-only American Rescue Plan Act funding.