

**Department:** County Assets      **Program Contact:** Tracey Massey  
**Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Requested  
**Related Programs:**  
**Program Characteristics:** Out of Target

### Executive Summary

The Digital Access program partners with internal and external stakeholder groups Countywide to address the digital access and affordability divide.

To support this program, the County funds a limited duration position project coordinator within the Department of County Assets. The coordinator tracks barriers to internet access throughout the County, assesses strategies and pilot programs to address these barriers, investigates grant opportunities, and aligns 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 39,000 Multnomah County households do not have broadband internet at home.

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.

There are many public, private, and nonprofit groups working countywide to address the dual challenges of infrastructure and affordability for specific community populations. New revenue streams will soon be available as both the State and Federal government develop grant programs to address this complex issue. Through DCA’s Digital Access Program, the Digital Access Coordinator is actively engaged in these conversations, gathering input and developing strategies for Multnomah County to increase community connectivity.

### 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.	NA	1	1	1
Outcome	Board presentation and approval to proceed with activities identified in Roadmap.	NA	NA	NA	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	Requested General Fund	Requested Other Funds
Program Expenses	2022	2022	2023	2023
Personnel	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$165,592
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$165,592</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>		<b>\$165,592</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$165,592
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$165,592</b>

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. Slight increase in funding due to position and step increase.