



Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Schools IT Digital Equity Collaborative

2022 Trailblazer Application - Indicator 5

Your local government directly funds community digital inclusion programming.

Checklist 1 (Must meet 1 of 2)

- Your local government has been instrumental in securing funds from any source.
- Your local government has appropriated funds that are available annually.

Checklist 2 (Must meet 2 of 3)

- Supports digital literacy training
- Supports assistance to residents acquiring home Internet access
- Supports assistance to residents acquiring a home computing device

Supporting documentation (Must meet 1 of 1):

1. Description of the fund and/or application process.
2. Grant or contract confirmation letter.

Description of the fund and/or application process

Hennepin County Board Action Request, July 20, 2021

[21-0263](#)

Authorize up to \$10,000,000 in federal funds for eligible costs, operations, and services to continue and expand the “Connecting Hennepin” initiative that aims to eliminate the Digital Divide in Hennepin County; delegate authority to the County Administrator, neg agmts for services; 07/01/21–12/31/24; direction to provide an update and additional recommendations

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The City of Minneapolis is directing \$2 million of its ARPA funds to digital equity services.

[City Capacity and Performance \(opengov.com\)](#)

City funds are being directed to the County to provide the following services in Minneapolis:

- Fixed wireless network technology at two locations in Minneapolis.
- Provide eligible households within the service area with assistance in accessing the network. This assistance may include: subscriptions to the network (or vouchers/subsidies to reduce cost); receivers, routers, or similar in-home devices; laptops or other connectivity devices needed to access the network; technical assistance; and programs to help persons within the service area gain digital literacy.
- Broadband vouchers: The Program may include use of City Funds to purchase internet



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- vouchers for use by economically disadvantaged households.
- Hotspots: The Program may include use of the City Funds for purchase of and provision to economically disadvantaged residents of internet hotspots.
 - Equipment, technical assistance, digital literacy: The City Funds may also be used to provide recipients of vouchers or hotspots with receivers, routers, or similar in-home devices; laptops or other connectivity devices needed to access the network; technical assistance; and programs to help recipients gain digital literacy. The City and the County will collaborate in selecting the types of assistance that will be offered.
 - Digital Equity Study: The Program may include conducting a study regarding the state of digital equity in Minneapolis, if the parties determine that additional information is needed to advance the Program goals in the most efficient and equitable manner.

Future funding initiative for marketing and promotion

The County plans a significant public messaging campaign to encourage all residents, especially vulnerable populations, including children and youth, to use safe practices online. City funds may be used to plan, develop and fund this campaign.



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