

Peter Favorito

Broadband and Digital Equity Advocate

617-635-3112 - w

617-971-7612 - c

Peter.Favorito@boston.gov

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Peter Favorito, Boston's

Broadband and Digital Equity Advocate, presenting an Affordable Connectivity Program sign-up at Prince Hall Lodge in March, 2022, for seniors participating in a Boston Digital Equity Fund training program.

Broadband is essential infrastructure for the 21st century. But for too many of our residents and businesses, service is too slow, too expensive, or simply not available. Fast broadband is key to economic and educational opportunity, it connects our world-class universities and hospitals, and it is the engine that powers our digital economy.

We need to improve broadband access in the City of Boston, and we need someone to lead the effort. The City is open to all solutions, from stimulating the private market to building public broadband infrastructure.

The City of Boston's Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT), in partnership with the City of Boston's Equity Office and Cabinet, is hiring a Broadband and Digital Equity Advocate to lead policy and planning initiatives aimed at increasing broadband affordability and availability, and providing all Boston residents with the skills and resources they need to connect

Key responsibilities:

- With the goal of equity being at the forefront, research and make recommendations for strategies to encourage broadband availability and affordability, such as:
 - Regulatory changes
 - Development or tax incentives
 - Municipal/“middle mile” network building
 - Solicitation of private market entrants through RFP or RFI
 - Leveraging city-owned broadband resources (fiber, conduit, facilities, etc.) for commercial or public use
- Become well-versed in the residential and business broadband market in Boston.
- Develop an understanding of the barriers to broadband access that exist in the City of Boston. ● Develop a clear articulation of the City’s broadband and digital equity policy objectives, and provide regular internal and external communication about work in this area.
- Engage local stakeholders (government, business, public, institutional), both formally and informally to understand their needs and goals around achieving and maintaining equity in the digital space. ● Provide project planning leadership on any strategies adopted by the city.
- Work closely with other city agencies that have a role in broadband and digital equity, such as the Office of Equity and the Equity Cabinet, Boston Public Schools, Economic Development, and Public Works Department.
- Plan and participate in public events focused on broadband and digital equity.
- Represent the City with various local and national broadband policy organizations.
- Track relevant state and federal legislation and rulemaking, and identify opportunities for advocacy by the city on behalf of our policy aims.
- Perform related work as required.