CITY OF SOUTH BEND DIGITAL INCLUSION STAFF

We at the City support two full-time staff members and two part-time staff members who focus on digital inclusion efforts. We are creating a third position in January of 2023 to manage our digital equity portfolio.

Currently, Chief Innovation Officer Denise Linn Riedl (driedl@southbendin.gov) leads the City’s broad goals and initiatives for broadband expansion, digital skills training, assistance program outreach (including the Affordable Connectivity Program), and technology access programs.

Director of Civic Innovation Madi Rogers (mrogers@southbendin.gov), directs and oversees these efforts, including overseeing the South Bend Technology Resource Center to democratize digital access, coordinating an outreach team which canvasses the City to encourage participation in social programs, administering the Citywide Classroom South Bend initiative to provide students and families with in-home internet, and increasing digital access through fiber and public internet expansions.

The Director of Civic Innovation also coordinates stakeholder relationships to promote digital inclusion and lifelong learning.

The City also contracts with enFocus, a local nonprofit, to support two part-time staff members who focus on digital inclusion. Patrick McGuire (pmcguire@southbendin.gov) is an Innovation Fellow managing broadband expansion. Francie Fink (ffink@southbendin.gov) is an Innovation Fellow managing the day-to-day operations of South Bend’s Technology Resource Center, which provides public access to technology and digital skills training.

In early 2023, we will be adding a Technology Equity Manager to manage projects, build partnerships, and raise funds to implement these initiatives and support the broader vision of digital equity in South Bend.

Please see our uploaded documentation for the following:

1. The finalized 2022 Department of Innovation & Technology Budget,
showing approved salaries for the Chief Innovation Officer and the Director of Civic Innovation, as well as Innovation Fellows contracted through enFocus.

2. A position description for the Chief Innovation Officer.

3. A position description for the Director of Civic Innovation.

4. A contract with enFocus, Inc. showing the City’s support of the two Innovation Fellows described above.

5. A 2023 Personnel Change Request to add the Technology Equity Manager role to the Department of Innovation & Technology budget.