

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming October 15-21, 2018 as International Digital Inclusion Week in Multnomah County.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. The National Digital Inclusion Alliance is a unified voice for home broadband access, public broadband access, personal devices and local technology training and support programs. The Portland / Multnomah County Digital Inclusion Network (DIN) works collaboratively in our region to connect and support organizations with digital inclusion programs and functions to serve digitally excluded individuals and families who are in need of computers, internet access and digital skills training in order to fully participate all aspects of American society—from economic success and educational achievement, to positive health outcomes and civic engagement.
- b. The Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) targets access and adoption gaps for excluded and disadvantaged communities, specifically those with low incomes, older adults, communities of color, people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency.
- c. An estimated 15 percent of Multnomah County households do not have Internet access at home (18% with income under \$30,000, 28% for those 65 years or older, 30% for Hispanic households). The primary reason is cost, with lack of devices and training trailing close behind.
- d. People of color, recent immigrant communities, older adults, people with disabilities and those with low incomes are disproportionately likely to lack broadband Internet access and the skills and tools to use it effectively.
- e. Digital exclusion leads to negative impacts on workforce development, education, health care, civic engagement, and social connections. Digital inclusion leads to social and economic opportunity, mitigates socioeconomic disparities—connects people from otherwise disconnected communities (including racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and recent immigrants) to job opportunities, avenues for educational advancement and channels for communication.
- f. The DIN has made significant progress on all 17 strategic actions of the DEAP, with special focus this year on leading and supporting digital inclusion initiatives, bringing awareness to barriers, and increasing local knowledge and capacity to act.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. October 15-21, 2018 as International Digital Inclusion Week in Multnomah County, Oregon highlighting local events and programs that work to provide free or low cost computers, internet access and training to residents who need these resources.
2. October 20 is Community Media Day in Multnomah County, Oregon. Digital Inclusion Network members MetroEast Community Media and Open Signal celebrate and bring awareness to the importance of free speech and accessible media for citizen journalists who tell their unique stories every year. These partners ensure that the media landscape remains inclusive for all TV, film, and mobile device artists and they invigorate civic engagement, inspire diverse voices and strengthen community life.

ADOPTED this 11th day of October, 2018.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, County Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries