



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: _____

Agenda Item #: _____

Est. Start Time: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Agenda Title: Digital Equity Action Plan Year One Report

Requested

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 27, 2017 **Time Needed:** 15 minutes

Department: Library **Division:** Director's Office

Contact(s): Cindy Gibbon

Phone: 503-988-5496 **Ext.:** _____ **Email:** cindyg@multcolib.org

Presenters: Jon Worona, MCL Director of Content Strategies; Julie Omelchuck, City of

Portland Office of Community Technology; DIN representative TBD

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

This is an informational item. No action is required.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In April 2016 the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners (RESOLUTION NO. 2016-028) and Library District Board (RESOLUTION NO. 2016-029) and the Portland City Council adopted the Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) for Portland and Multnomah County. The plan identifies sixteen action items across five digital equity goals: Access, Training/Support, Leadership/Capacity Building, Connectivity to the Digital Economy, and Policy.

During this presentation we will provide a report on DEAP first-year results and brief the board on implementation and evaluation plans moving forward.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

The cost of digital exclusion is great. Without access, full participation in nearly every aspect of American society — from economic success and educational achievement, to positive health outcomes and civic engagement — is compromised. The digital equity action plan 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. An estimated 15 percent of Portland-area households do not have Internet access at home. The primary reason is

cost, with lack of devices and training trailing close behind. 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.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

In developing the Digital Equity Action Plan, Multnomah County Library and the Department of County Assets, with the City of Portland's Office for Community Technology, facilitated a community-driven process for evaluating digital equity strategies involving over 100 people and 30 organizations. The Digital Inclusion Network, led by Multnomah County Library and City of Portland Office of Community Technology staff, is charged with plan implementation. DIN members represent more than 30 organizations, including non-profits that serve digitally excluded communities, higher education, school districts, broadband service providers, small businesses and representatives of city and county government, all partnering to achieve DEAP goals.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

/s/  _____

Date: 7.5.17