



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 4/14/16  
Agenda Item #: R.7  
Est. Start Time: 10:50 am approx.  
Date Submitted: 3/30/16

**Agenda Title:** Resolution Adopting the Digital Equity Action Plan

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.*

## Requested

Meeting Date: April 14, 2016 Time Needed: 15 minutes

Department: Library Division: Dept. Administration

Contact(s): Cindy Gibbon

Phone: 988-5496 Ext. 85496 I/O Address: 317/CEN

**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Vailey Oehlke, Multnomah County Library Director; Sherry Swackhamer, CIO & Director, Department of County Assets; Cindy Gibbon, Access & Information Services Director, Matthew Timberlake, IT Portfolio Manager

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Adopt the Digital Equity Action Plan.

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

The Digital Equity Action Plan (DEAP) comes out of the work of the Digital Inclusion Network (DIN), a community coalition brought together by the Multnomah County Library and the City of Portland that has been meeting since the fall of 2014. The DEAP outlines a series of operational and policy proposals for public and private agencies, along with nonprofits, to advance the cause of digital equity in Portland and Multnomah County.

The National Digital Inclusion Alliance defines digital equity as everyone having “daily access to the Internet, at speeds, quality and capacity necessary to accomplish common tasks, with digital skills necessary to fully participate online, and whenever possible on a personal device and home network.” 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.

To achieve full digital equity in Portland and Multnomah County, all residents need to have barrier-free access to high-speed broadband Internet at home and school, an affordable

computing device and the training to use their device and Internet access effectively. 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.

The Plan identifies five digital equity goals:

1. Access: Ensure access to affordable high-speed Internet and devices for those in need.
2. Training/Support: Provide training and support to ensure that everyone has the skills to use digital technology to enhance their quality of life.
3. Leadership/Capacity Building: Empower community partners to bridge the digital divide through funding, coordination, training and staff resources.
4. Connectivity to the Digital Economy: Create opportunities for jobs in the digital economy for underserved populations.
5. Policy: Build a policy framework that supports digital equity and meaningful Internet adoption, leading to better community outcomes.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Digital Inclusion Network partners hosted a Digital Inclusion Summit in November of 2014. Eighty-seven attendees discussed steps the community could take to address the digital divide. Multnomah County Library, Multnomah County Department of County Assets and the City of Portland funded the planning process to develop the DEAP; the City of Gresham and Multnomah County Department of County Assets joined the collaboration to guide the planning process.

To help support and provide input into the plan, JLA Public Involvement conducted five focus groups in June and August of 2015: Vietnamese and Chinese; Spanish; Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Disabilities; and African-American. The focus groups were followed by three workshops with 85 invitees from community based organizations, business, education and government, held in October, November and December, 2015.

---

**Required Signature**

---

**Elected  
Official or  
Department**

**Director:** Vailey Oehlke/s/

**Date:** March 29, 2016

*Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.*