



**KC REGION  
DIGITAL EQUITY ACTIVISTS  
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE  
WORKSHOP**

**November 18, 2022**



**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS REGARDING  
SOME FOUNDATIONAL  
TERMINOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES**



How should our community of practice define “Broadband” internet service?

Must we adopt for all purposes the same definition of that term used in current or pending federal or state Broadband funding programs?



## CARD SORT QUESTION #1

What are the characteristics of  
“Reliable” Broadband service?



How should we define “Affordable”  
in the context of Broadband service?



In relation to Broadband, how should we define an “underserved community”?

- Must we adopt for all purposes the same definition of that term used in current/pending federal or state Broadband funding programs?
- To what extent have “Digital Redlining” or “Digital Discrimination” been significant factors in how underserved communities became or continue to be underserved?


# How should we define “Digital Equity”?

- Should we adopt the National Digital Inclusion Alliance’s definition posted at <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/definitions/>?
- Is “Digital Dignity” part of Digital Equity? Would we consider Digital Equity part of Social Justice?
- What is your definition of Socio-Economic Equity? What is needed to achieve Socio-Economic Equity for all?




How might we define a  
“Digital Equity Activist”?






Taking into account the technological gap, which affects thousands of people and prevents them from being participants in the new job opportunities and digital economy, can we continue with the traditional grant model that does not respond to the urgency of the issue or the new post-pandemic reality?




DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
REGARDING  
AS IS CIRCUMSTANCES,  
NEEDS ASSESSMENTS, AND  
FAMILIARITY WITH BROADBAND  
FUNDING PROGRAMS



Many commentators on Broadband matters across the country have emphasized the need for much more accurate Broadband access and adoption information on an essentially household-to-household basis (sometimes referred to as “Ground Truth”).

Do you have or know of datasets for specific cities, counties, or neighborhoods in the KC Region that you would say are substantially accurate as to the Ground Truth on the numbers of households that already have, or can soon get, Affordable Broadband service?

- Does such data address whether the service is Reliable?
- Does such data address whether the service is sustainable on an Affordable long-term basis (as opposed to based on a short-term discount)?




Have you been involved in or learned of initiatives to gather accurate Ground Truth on Affordable Broadband service for specific cities, counties, or neighborhoods in the KC Region?

If so, what have you found to be the most effective methods to gather useful Ground Truth data? To what extent have they included input directly from residents and businesses within the subject area?



## CARD SORT QUESTION #2

What mechanisms should we use to share Ground Truth data?




Some have asked: Do we know where all the existing “Fiber” is in KC Region? Do you have or know of others who have accessible information on where the existing Fiber is in all or specific parts of the KC Region?

## CARD SORT QUESTION #3

What challenges are you experiencing, or have you heard others are experiencing in accessing information about or in understanding the funding opportunities, processes and/or goals of Broadband programs coming from the Federal and State governments (Kansas & Missouri)?





Do you feel you have a good sense of the standards that will be applied in determining how federal and state Broadband funding will be allocated and deployed, and who will be involved in making those decisions?

Do you feel you have a good sense of the processes for seeking such funding, how communities in the KC Region are or can be involved in developing funding requests, and how Digital Equity Activists can be involved in developing funding requests?




DISCUSSION QUESTIONS REGARDING  
TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS FOR  
AFFORDABLE ACCESS TOOLKIT



How should we define the following terms?

- Information Telecom Service Provider/Carrier
- Reseller/Distributor of Information Telecom Provider/Carrier



Do you agree with the often-heard proposition that the ultimate objective is “fiber to the home” for virtually all households?

What information and expertise are available in the KC Region to guide proposals to build new Broadband infrastructure that are based on well-informed cost-benefit analyses and prioritize addressing the needs of the most currently underserved communities in the Region? Who will have a seat at the table in such analyses and prioritizations? In this connection are you familiar with:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/06/19/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administration-advances-equity-and-opportunity-for-black-americans-and-communities-across-the-country/>




# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS REGARDING AFFORDABLE DEVICES TOOLKIT



## CARD SORT QUESTION #4

What criteria should be used in determining whether a given device is suitable for various types of uses of Broadband?




What types of descriptions of specifications needed to support various types of uses of Broadband have you seen?



## CARD SORT QUESTION #5

What organizations or programs accessible in the KC Region do you know of that provide Affordable Devices? In each case: (i) do they provide New Devices, Used Devices or both?; and (ii) do they provide information on the suitability of the devices they make available for various types of uses of Broadband?



Do you think it would be helpful for the KC Region Digital Equity Activists community of practice to create, update, and share a publicly-accessible “map” and navigation tool regarding organizations or programs providing devices on a free or low-cost basis?




DISCUSSION QUESTIONS  
REGARDING DIGITAL TRAINING  
OPTIONS TOOLKIT

## CARD SORT QUESTION #6

What organizations or programs accessible in the KC Region provide Digital Training? For each, does the training include:

- Basic Digital Literacy?
- Industry Certification Training/Prep/Bootcamps?
- Post-Secondary Technology Education?

How might those levels of training, or components of them, be offered in tailored ways to best engage and serve the specific needs and goals of diverse learners of varying age and levels of literacy and education, including persons with disabilities?



Would it be helpful for the KC Region Digital Equity Activists community of practice to create, update, and share a publicly-accessible “map” and navigation tool regarding organizations or programs that provide Digital Training of various types on a free or low-cost basis?