

Community Benefits Agreement

Recommendations from the Digital
Inclusion Coalition

Who we are

- Initial partnership: Community Computer Access Network (C-CAN) & the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability (AMS)
- Funded by the Minnesota State Network Fund (MSNet Fund)
- Series of open roundtable discussions to arrive at these recommendations
- More than 20 participants, from more than 15 organizations

Guiding Principles

- Public/Private Wireless Partnership can help close the Digital Divide in Minneapolis
- Funds are needed to increase technical education and access
- Delivery system must be designed to address full inclusiveness

Bridging the Digital Divide

- Increase technology literacy
- Support Community Technology Centers (CTCs)
- Subsidize Internet service
- Subsidize home computer access
- Provide relevant local content

Vision Statement

- Everyone will have affordable broadband access
- Rich, diverse local content
- Infrastructure will exist for universal access

Recommendations

- Digital Inclusion Intermediary Organization
- Digital Inclusion Fund
- Wireless Minneapolis Operations Guidelines

Digital Inclusion Intermediary Organization

- To leverage resources coming from the Digital Inclusion Fund
- Increase capacity to address Digital Divide
- Coordinate individuals and groups addressing community technology needs

Digital Inclusion Fund

- Vendor transfer 7% of revenues to Fund
- Vendor provide advance of \$250,000
- Managed by community foundation (Digital Inclusion Advisory Board)
- Priority to assisting unconnected communities
- Support for AmeriCorps efforts addressing Digital Gap issues

Criteria for Addressing the Digital Divide

- Affordability
- Access
- Technology Literacy
- Community Technology Centers
- Support assistive technology
- Support community based non-profits
- Support efforts to provide economic opportunity
- Support outreach for technology literacy programs

Fund Administration Recommendations

- Award grants consistent with the activities mentioned above
- Grants awarded competitively
- Renewal based on results
- Advisory Board ensure diverse activities serving underserved communities

Network Neutrality

- Subscribers entitled to lawful access of their choice
- Subscribers run applications of their choice
- Subscribers entitled to competition among providers
- Vendor will carry traffic regardless of content or destination
- Vendor will provide access to competing ISPs at a reasonable wholesale rate

Access Recommendations

- Available to all locations on Mpls
- Available “free” access paid by ads
- Low rates
- 60 day free trial
- Easy to sign-up and cancel service
- Subsidized accounts determined by Digital Access Board
- Subsidized or free accounts for CTCs and other groups
- Free zones for schools, libraries, CTCs, etc

Hardware Recommendations

- Vendor shall make available affordable hardware to qualifying households
- Upgrade CTCs

Content Recommendations

- Easy access to local information
- Links on portal page to Web locations specified by the Digital Inclusion Board
- City created Walled Garden with links to specified web sites
- Vendor will make available affordable content blocking solutions

Other Recommendations

- Commitment to local hiring and contracting
- Wireless Minneapolis open to third party research
- Provide innovative delivery of City resources
- Work to extend network to other municipalities

Neutrality and Privacy

- Wireless Minneapolis should support strict network neutrality
- Wireless Minneapolis should respect consumer privacy
- Customer data secured and not shared

Thanks!

