BOARD MEETING
April 18, 2024

NRZs, City of Hartford & At-Large Representatives

MARG

Parkville

Southwest/Behind the Rocks

South End

AGENDA

6:00	**Welcome**
6:00	**Meeting Protocol & Introductions**
6:05	**Board Business**
6:30	**Board Education:** Bongi Magubane, Digital Equality
6:40	**NRZ Roundtable**
7:00	**Hartford History Project:** Bongi Magubane
7:10	**HNEXT Updates**
7:20	**Board Announcements:** Frank Sentner, Board Retreat Follow-up
7:25	**Follow up/Assessment**
7:30	**Close**

Board Business

- March 2024 Board Minutes Approval
- Financial Report
- ED Search Committee
- DECD Funding
- Prosperity Grant
- 2024 GOVT Grant

Board Education

Digital Equity

CT Digital Equity Program
CGS 289 CT: Everyone Connected

Vision

The State of Connecticut defines "Digital Equity" as "a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for participation in society, democracy, and the economy of the state" (CGS § 289). The vision behind the plan, "Connecticut: Everyone Connected," defines the resources, challenges, and path forward to making sure all residents can flourish in a society that depends ever more on access to digital tools and the skills to use them.

Background

With support from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Commission for Educational Technology completed a multi-year effort to design and implement a statewide Digital Equity Plan. **The goal of the plan is to help ensure that all residents have access to and can utilize technology for learning, career advancement, leveraging state services, health and wellness, and overall participation in society.**

CT Digital Equity Program
CGS 289 CT: Everyone Connected

Covered Populations:

- Those living at or below 150% of the federal poverty line
- Aging Individuals
- People incarcerated in State correctional facilities
- Veterans
- Individual with disabilities
- People with a language barrier (English learners and those with low literacy levels)
- Members of a racial or ethnic minority group
- Residents who reside in rural areas

Plan addresses Availability; Digital Literacy; Technical Support and Access to Public Resources and Services

Expected Outcomes:
- **Economic and Workforce Development**
- **Education**
- Health
- **Civic and social engagement**
- Delivery of essential services

Digital Equity Act Overview
FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: 65B

Programs:

- ✓ Digital Equity Act - $2.7B
- ✓ Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program $42.5B
- ✓ Affordable Connectivity Program $14.2B
- ✓ Tribal Connectivity Program $2B
- ✓ Middle Mile Connectivity - $1B
- ✓ Digital Discrimination Section

Digital Equity Act
Eligible Administering Entities:

- The State, a Political Subdivision of the State, an Indian Tribe, a Native Hawaiian organization

- A Foundation, Corporation, Institution, Association, or Coalition that is – (i) not-for-profit, (ii) providing services in the state and (iii) not a school

- A Community Anchor Institution, other than a school

- A local Educational Agency

- An Entity that carries out a Workforce Development Program

- An Agency of the State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the state

- A Public or Multi-Family Housing Authority

- A partnership between any of the preceding entities

CT Digital Equity Program Goals

Key Initiatives:

1. Promote Development of Digital Skills and Technical Support Programs
2. Increase Public Awareness of Digital Equity Resources
3. Ensure Residents Have Affordable Options for Getting Online that Meet Their Needs
4. Support Development of Accessible and Inclusive Digital Government at the State and Local Levels
5. Support High-Speed Broadband Infrastructure build out
6. Foster Ongoing Learning About Digital Equity Best Practices

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/das/ctedtech/publications/2023/das_de_draft_plan-public_comment.pdf

NRZ Roundtable

Share One Opportunity for Collaboration with Other NRZs

Limit comments to 1:30 minutes

HARTFORD NEXT HISTORY PROJECT

Neighborhood Training Institute (NTI) Hartford Next History Project

The HNXT Next History Project goal is to capture the history of Hartford Next which will be used to educate NRZ members and the community at large about our organization. The Hartford History Project is part of the Communications and Education Platform and Advocacy as defined by the Hartford Next Framework. The output will be used for education and marketing, and to facilitate better understanding of the role of HNEXT, expanded collaborations and partnership opportunities.

Advocacy and Community Economic Development

–   Establish positions on substantive issues that affect the community
–   **Civic and Community Engagement**
–   Educate stakeholders on community economic development

Communications and Education Platform:

–   **Formal and informal training**
–   **Programs to educate and empower the community**
–   **Collaboration to identify and address neighborhood/city issues**
–   **Repository of relevant data and content**
–   Resources for non-profits, public organizations and the community at large

Strategic Partnerships:

–   Expanded collaborations and partnerships with anchor institutions, funders, non-profits and public organizations

Project approach: Interview founding members and other relevant stakeholders to capture our origin story. Scope includes:

–   Storyboarding (multiple interviews)
–   Filming and production costs (multiple interviews)
–   Post-production editing
–   Organization and storage of content – library of videos

Hartford Next
Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee**

- **Governance Committee**

- **Finance Committee**

- **Program Committee**

- **Communications & Marketing**

- **Development Committee**

Board Announcements

Board Retreat Follow-up: Frank Sentner

Follow up & Assessment

- What went well?

- What could be improved?

- How am I doing as a Board Member?

- What do I need to be an effective Board Member?

Hartford Next Meeting
May 16, 2024
6:00 pm

Agenda Items For
May Hartford NEXT Meeting