

Digital Equity in Minneapolis

How can

technology access & skills

Jobs

contribute toward our goals?

Business
&
Economic
Development

Community
Engagement

Health

Safety

Education

Meeting Notes – May 14, 2015 - Minneapolis Advisory Committee on Aging

The Committee is framing the digital equity topic around *Minneapolis for a Lifetime*

- Minneapolis Community Technology Survey shows gaps in technology access and skills based on age, race, income and education.
- Assessing all City services related to accessibility by or impact of older residents
- Tele-health movement – online health resources and tools require Internet

The following areas are high priorities for the Committee:

1. **Assistive technology** – ensuring affordable assistive technology tools are available to all residents. Look into what tools and resources are available, identify/apply for funding to assist low income residents to access the tools.
2. **Deregulation of Landlines** – understanding this policy change and what it means for residents, the timing, and dealing with outcomes/impacts for the community. Education for the community about this change.
3. **MPHA and the Mpls Highrise Resident Council** – low cost Internet to all residents (in their own households/units). Explore options of using tax levy.
4. **Internet - access to information for all**
 - Free/low cost Internet for all Minneapolis residents – income should not be a barrier to information online.
 - Language should not be a barrier to accessing information online.

Other discussion:

Gaps on tech access and skills based on age: What has been done to address these gaps?

Focus of the IT Department, in addition to conducting the Community Technology Survey, has been on job seekers and the racial unemployment gaps, geographic areas including North Minneapolis and Phillips, education regarding cybersecurity, troubleshooting, and collaborating with and promoting community tech resources and connecting residents and community organizers more directly with resources in their community. As far as seniors and low income residents – focus on working with MPHA and community groups to leverage the Wireless Minneapolis free community accounts for public housing community centers to create computer labs and Internet access for residents in the community rooms. Regarding Internet in MPHA: we have worked with leaders in MPHA and explored doing a pilot using USI Fiber to the Horn Towers, however MPHA has an existing agreement with Comcast for Internet service to resident units.

Concern over the ongoing cost of Internet – even can get a low cost computer, the monthly Internet cost is too high for many people. Free WiFi hot spots – see map, also free at library, coffee shops, parks, community centers.

Need to consider offering services on the Internet for English Language Learners, potential to bring in Minnesota Literacy Council as a partner

City of Minneapolis website – much of the information is woefully out of date

Video link: The conversation was about issues, recommendations and policy so we didn't watch the **CTEP AmeriCorps Senior Computer Club video**, but here is a [link](#). If resident organizations would like to tap into CTEP AmeriCorps resources, [contact one of the sites on this list](#).

Materials provided at the meeting:

- [Minneapolis Community Technology Survey Results](#) Reports are available for each Ward.
- [Low cost computers and Internet resources](#) [Free training Resources](#) [Cyber security tips](#), [Senior Tech at MCTC](#), [Project for Pride in Living workshop calendar](#), [UROC training calendar](#)
- [Fix-It Tech event flyer](#)
- More at www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion

Next steps: The committee will review these items further. Christina and Elise will follow up to discuss the committees goals, the priority areas listed above, how relates to the committee's planning overall and determine the next action steps.

Ray Olson -- Request to send specific ward report to info@folwell.org -- 4th Ward Elise will send, attention to Bonnie

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May 14, 2015
Advisory Committee On Aging

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **2014 Minneapolis Community Technology Survey**
- **Resources**
- **CTEP AmeriCorps (Community Technology Empowerment Project)**
 - **Video Civic Engagement Project with Seniors**
- **Discussion and Next Steps**