**April 12, 2022 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board**

Topics covered included: Becoming Digitally Literate: Pathways to supporting formerly incarcerated people; committee updates.

**This meeting was held:** April 12, 2022; 6:00-7:30 p.m., via Webex

**Attending:  (All via Webex)**

**Board Members:** Camille Malonzo, Femi Adebayo, Lassana Magassa, Tyrone Grandison, Rene Peters

**Public:** Douglas French, Carl Hiltbrunner, Patrick Brannon, Coleman Entringer, Erik Michel, Kristophet Larsen, Mark DeLoura, Michelle Blanchard, Annie Shaw, Dorene Cornwell, Call-in User 2, Harte Daniels, Phillip Meng, Dirk van Velzen, Harte Daniels

**Staff:** Trayce Cantrell, David Keyes, Vinh Tang, Meira Jough, Cass Magnuski

**25 In Attendance**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Welcome, everyone, to the April CTAB meeting. Several folks are out for spring break this week. So, we have a light agenda today, but still a very exciting one, and we will get to a great presentation from one of our board members, and a co-presenter about experience in digital equity. And, before that, I think we're going to start off with introductions. We're just going to go down the line, and if you when I call you, please introduce yourself with your name, affiliation, where you're calling from, and what's a good ice breaker? Favorite dessert shop in the Seattle area. Give us some recommendations for this weekend.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you all for the great introductions and great lists of dessert shops. They all sound so good. So, our first item on our agenda is an approval of last month's meeting minutes. Can I please get a motion from a board member to approve the March meeting minutes?

**Tyrone Grandison:**   I move to approve the March minutes.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Can I please get a second for Ty?

**Femi Adebayo:** Second.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you, Femi. All those in favor? All those who abstain or negate? This motion passes. Thank you. And then, the second piece of business is can I please get a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting?

**Femi Adebayo:** I move to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Can I get a second?

**Rene Peters:**  I second.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you. All those in favor? Hearing all yeas, this motion passes. Thank you all so much. And without further ado, I am so excited for our presentation tonight. It is one of our own, Lassana Magassa, who is a board member, and I'm going to hand it over to Lassana and Douglas French to present tonight.

**BECOMING DIGITALLY LITERATE:  PATHWAYS TO SUPPORTING FORMERLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE**

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you. Please let me know if you can see my screen? Okay, great. I am Lassana Magassa, a member of the CTAB board. Today, I am joined by Douglas French. He introduced himself briefly. Douglas is returning from incarceration. His current interests are around the pipeline for the incarcerated and homeless interventions. He has expertise (unintelligible)....

Today, our talk is on the topic of digital inclusion as it relates to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. The presentation will go as follows:  One, we're going to start by giving an overview of how many people are involved in the criminal justice system within Washington State. Then, we will give a high-level overview of the characteristics of both entering and leaving detention. Next, we will move to what will probably be one of our largest issues, and it is dedicated to giving you a detailed glimpse of how one segment of community members is systematically excluded from our digital inclusion efforts. We will all learn about the difficulties that the formerly incarcerated people have with technology before release, and afterwards. We will hear about experiences people have with technologies and their different functionalities and use. Along the way, we will hear about challenges and obstacles people are experiencing. We will conclude with bodies like CTAB and how they deal with people who are incarcerated and on parole. (unintelligible) If you are having trouble hearing me, please stop me.

As it relates to the criminal justice system, currently there are about 37,000 Washington State residents that are staying in different facilities. The largest portion are in local jails. Throughout the year, there are comparisons of US (unintelligible)... Even as a state, the incarceration rates per 100,000 people we are compared to countries. (unintelligible) Next, in Washington State, we will ask you to look at what the incarceration rate is by race and ethnicity. Again, this is per 100,000 people (unintelligible).

When we think about criminal justice, we often hear about (unintelligible), but actually it is a really small part of the larger criminal justice system. This chart here demonstrates that. Between incarceration and parole, there are (unintelligible) under this provision of criminal justice in Washington State. Who are the people incarcerated in Washington State? One of the first things to know is that many of them, at the time of incarceration, did not have a high school diploma. They were also unemployed and were living in poverty when the rent was due. Consider who these stakeholders are. What are the interventions and our ability to engage with them? What is their condition when they are about to be released? The 90 or 180 days immediately before release is the most important time in the lives of incarcerated people. During this time, it usually being used to develop some sort of plan what life back in the community can look like and how they're going to conduct themselves. It is also used to convey information about services available in the community and training. And so, I wanted to turn to Douglas French. Can you tell us a little about what you encountered during your last 90 days of incarceration at the institution?

**Douglas French:**  That's a great question and statement. Can you hear me all right?

**David Keyes:**   Yes, sounds good.

**Douglas French:**  The last 180 days, you go into this special program or programs that are supposed to get you ready for the community, and technology is absolutely not one of them. I was incarcerated for 15 years. The last cell phone I had was a Razr. So, these smart phone are a huge learning curve. And you get one when you get out, of course. And there's no ramp up to understanding how they're used, what they're used for, what you can do with them. There is absolutely no technology schooling, I would say, while you are incarcerated. It's completely overlooked. In fact, it is actually feared in prison, because it could be one of those things that are used that the community looks at as technology for incarcerated people as a threat.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you for that, Douglas. Was there actual computer training of any sort?

**Douglas French:**  In the general population, no. I was in a college inside program where I had actual access to a computer system that was in house, where we had Microsoft Office. So, I was actually training myself on Microsoft programs, the spreadsheets, Microsoft Word, basically, the Office suite. Very few people participated in something like that. I'm proud to be an outlier for something like that because I wanted to be proactive, knowing that technology is part of our society now. And I have to catch up.

**Harte Daniels:**  Did you have somebody that is in the program that you're talking about, allowed access to be doing that?

**Douglas French:**  No. Absolutely not. That is a misnomer throughout the nation that the International Toastmasters conference in Denver, Colorado where a formerly incarcerated person represented us. Basically, the whole country thinks that United States incarcerated people have access to the internet, and we don't. We had email, and that's pretty much it. The email was over an internet protocol system.

**Lassana Magassa:**  What did you think about when you returned to the community? Can you talk to us a little bit about how you felt?

**Douglas French:**  Yes. Again, a good question. Challenges everywhere on that. Some of us, when we are released, we have restrictions on our technology. Some people have absolutely no access to any technology whatsoever, besides a flip phone. I am fortunate enough to be able to have a smart phone, but I have to get permission to do certain functions on the smart phone from my P.O. Luckily, for me, I can use email freely and do other things. Other people can't even use email for a job interview. And as we all know, for about 98 percent of job, some form of contact is done via the internet. The parole officers don't care. They're like, 'Figure it out.' It's a tough one. I currently have the Obama Phone which came upon me by accident. I wasn't even informed about that in prison. And I got it. I'm currently on that now. That's the system I'm on right now, with my smart phone. Setting that thing up, oh my gosh, it was a nightmare. Nobody could help navigate someone in my situation. How do you do this? Simple functions for you guys, but complex for me. Even this thing I'm looking at right now, this is my third time on a Zoom or Webex type meeting. I don't know if I'm even doing it right.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you, Douglas. Can you talk about resources that have been helping you? (unintelligible) And how have they been helping you?

**Douglas French:**  Resources. Really, I can't think of any resources outside of -- when it comes to the digital at all that I can think of that I go to. There are tons of other resources. There are some outreaches that you can go to that will help you to fill out a resume and do some of those other online things for you, but you have to research those, and know where to go. They're not really public knowledge, I guess. It's a tough one. There are not a lot of resources when it comes to the digital world.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Can you talk a little bit about your in-person situation? Can you tell us about someone that you went to that was really helpful? You don't have to tell us about (unintelligible)...?

**Douglas French:**  I was having trouble understanding that one. That one came pretty broken up, Lassana. Can you restate that?

**Lassana Magassa:**  (unintelligible)

**Douglas French:**  Okay. I think what I heard is 'useful resources?' And that I found unuseful ones? Is that correct?

**Lassana Magassa:**  Yes, specifically one or two of them.

**Douglas French:**   The only in-person resources that I can think of is that I cannot really say that I've found resources that I know of that I can reach out to for the digital information besides going to the library and picking up a book. That's not very easy in the Covid situation, either. That's a tough question to answer, Lassana. I can't really answer that one very well, because there's really nothing besides your own grit to figure it out.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Great. That's really helpful to know. Thank you.  So, one of the challenges is not being able to find in-person resources. Any other challenges for you and your peers?

**Douglas French:**   That's a great statement. The biggest obstacle we have is coming out of incarceration. Some halfway homes don't allow technology in their halfway homes. Like I stated earlier, some parole officers won't allow formerly incarcerated people to have technology at all. There's no reason for that because there's enough technology to basically clone your phone in different ways so that they can keep an eye on you, if that's what they're looking for, and see what you're doing with it. And there are plenty of alerts. So, there's no real reason why they do it. They're just doing it. And that's the biggest thing. I have this friend of mine who can't even look at a phone. How do you apply for a job? And his parole officers says, "I don't care.” That's the toughest part, the insensitivity of the system, when we're trying to reintegrate into society and not getting the help that we really need. If there are places to go, and that's the case, then there should be a spot where you can get that help.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Great, thank you for sharing that. There are several issues around getting access to technology in general. Also, when we're thinking about the bell curve of people who are returning to the community, he is very proactive. He participated in college, and is concerned about what his peers are facing that makes it very difficult for them to reintegrate back into the community. (unintelligible) do have access to applications that provide limited email capability. Okay, now let's go to challenges in exploring opportunities. From the ideas that we have on what cities can do in collaboration with the Department of Corrections and other agencies for people returning to the community. One thing we thought about is there was some sort of technology knowledge, we clearly know that they're helping people returning to the community to fill out applications. This is how they get them hooked up with benefits, medical benefits, and social benefits. This is something that could be added to get out this information to be able to support people. No DOC can actually tell you how digital literacy is available. Does this sound better now? The second piece is digital navigators in their efforts here in Seattle. Is there a way of replicating that for people returning from incarceration?

**Douglas French:**   Was that a question posed to me, Lassana?

**Lassana Magassa:**  And then, third, are there some transitional programs. Douglas mentioned some transitional housing programs. In Seattle, there are actually over a dozen transitional housing programs within the City limits. It's very hard to know where they are. When I reached out to the Department of Corrections to figure out where they are so that we could talk about technology intervention, they said they couldn't tell us where they are specifically, or the number. There are some barriers. If the communities could work with the DOC to make that information available to digital inclusion organizations, or people interested in helping, that would be good, as well.

And then, one of the ideas that Douglas French mentioned to me and was real excited about is this idea of using peer support to help them become acquainted with technology in its different functions and uses. Douglas, can you talk more about this?

**Douglas French:**   I couldn't understand the last part, Lassana. Why peer support would be a good thing? Peer support is like an alcoholic talking to an alcoholic in AA. It's the same thing, same principle, where you have a peer who can understand and relate to another peer, the challenges we've been through and the things we've done. It's easier to break that barrier with somebody who has walked your steps. It's actually nice to think it's a good idea that we actually brainstorm about having somebody being trained to help the next guy. It's cost-effective. It's a wonderful idea to have formerly incarcerated people trained to help the next person coming out, and how to navigate all of this stuff, even how to do an Amazon application. You guys take it for granted how easy it is, but for someone, but for someone like me, that was crazy trying to navigate that. I think some help would be nice.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you. I am hoping that my sound is better now. What are the interventions that cities can put into place? the first was technology literacy, or digital literacy, in addition to the surveys or applications they have to get onto social services or other services. Second, for digital navigators to pair up with transitional housing programs or those that serve formerly incarcerated persons, to help them become acquainted with digital technologies. Third was to make more effort by transitional housing programs that have state funds and some have federal funds in terms of digital literacy professionals to be able to provide services. Then finally we talked about peer mentors support service. This would be a model with the formerly incarcerated, in a model that would be compensated for helping. Finally, I wanted to note -- and Douglas mentioned this -- but it was also what others told me: It is very difficult to find in-person support at existing community-based organizations. I know there are several that actually provide this sort of support. When formerly incarcerated people tried, they were unable to find them.

So, thank you for your patience with my sound issues. I would like to open it up for any questions if we have time for that.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you so much, Lassana and Douglas, for this great presentation. There are a couple of questions in the chat. I think I'll go from the chat, and then go to live questions. The first one that I see is a question from Michelle, asking can you kindly address the Asian population in this presentation?

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you for that question. I am not prepared to answer that. I do apologize.

**Camille Malonzo:**   We can do a follow-up after this. The second question is form Kristopher, asking, 'Also Washington has some on Parole but now parole is gone and they switched to the community custody model. Is there stats on how many are on community custody?’

**Lassana Magassa:**  I don't have those stats if there are any available, but if I can provide them after this meeting....

**Camille Malonzo:**   And then, Harte mentioned 211.

**Harte Daniels:**  I was directing it to Douglas or anyone else who has been incarcerated, on your prep for leaving incarceration. During that prep, did anybody mention the 211 system? It doesn't matter whether you have a smart phone or landline, or anything else, you just punch 211 into the phone and ask your questions. Had anybody mentioned this service to you before leaving incarceration?

**Douglas French:**   No, not at all. That's the first I've heard of it. I wrote down that note to pass along to other people, as well. I will try it as soon as I get off of this.

**Harte Daniels:**  Yes, 211 is a database of all types of services, like if you don't have food, if you don't have housing, for you to connect with help. There are two others. In my research for people who could not use tele-health, marginalized people using tele-health during Covid. There are two other systems. One is Aunt Bertha, <https://www.auntbertha.com/widget/660x234?c=2F8BC5&d=connectva> and the other is Unite Us <https://uniteus.com/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwmPSSBhCNARIsAH3cYgazZ1lDN1G21VFp0RckFyIDLwjIyYfiURfXAYK-_l0Gq9ySvLVnhaUaAgq4EALw_wcB> . But you would have to be more computer-literate. We can talk more. If it's not there in the 211 system, how do we get it in there to help people in this type of situation where they're completely restricted on digital literacy and access.

**Douglas French:**   Great.

**Camille Malonzo:**   That's a great question. And the next question that I see here is from Dorene Cornwell. Dorene, would you like to ask your question?

**Dorene Cornwell:**   One of my questions was are there any prison jobs where people get computer skills? My impression is that there might be, but that that doesn't mean that it necessarily or absolutely doesn't solve the connectivity problems. That was one question. The other question is how much of peoples' restrictions about computer use is due to something about their sentence; and how much is it the discretion of the parole officer or whatever the supervising person is called?

**Douglas French:**   Those are both great questions that I have some insight on. Computer jobs: There are some in prison. There are clerks that get access to a cloud system within the system. It's restricted. But they do get technology. It's usually your lifers that get those types of jobs, because those are one of the better jobs. And you usually have to have the skill already for the job. You don't get trained for this skill in prison. That's a big thing when you are incarcerated. You don't get taught a new skill. You already have to have the skill, because they use you as the labor for that job so they don't have to hire anybody for that.

The second part of that one, Dorene, can you rephrase that second part of the question?

**Dorene Cornwell:**   I know that some sentences come with restrictions, but how much of what actually happens is totally at the discretion of the parole officer?

**Douglas French:**   Most of it is a preset package that you get. Then it's 100 percent up to your parole officer, what they decide to do. And it depends on you, individually. Two persons with the exact same charges could be 100 percent different. So, two different parole officers, two different same criminal charges, different reactions. So, it's up to the P.O. 100 percent. It's up to the district attorneys of the sentencing in our system. No longer is it run by a judge.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Just to piggyback on that real quick, computer training, usually if three is, it's usually on how to become a programmer. So watch this space, we have some community attention to that. And also, Dirk, if he's still in the room, has some experience and does a lot of work in this area. So, please, anything that you'd like to add, I would be honored if you would address this.

**Dirk van Velzen:**   Yes, I'm still here and happy to weigh in a little bit. We have a coding boot camp in partnership with Coding Dojo. It helps the formerly incarcerated to become computer coders. Right now, it's currently for people who are outside of the system, and we're working on extending it to people on work release, you know, kind of fresh out. We are also trying to bring the program inside of the prison system in partnership with some of the programs that do basic computer education.

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you. Yes, it's at the discretion of the P.O.s. I have talked to people whose offense has nothing to do with technology at all. And still, they're forbidden from accessing it.

**David Keyes:**  Can I just ask Dirk and Doug, coming back to what access do you get as you're coming out. If you wanted to take the community college course, how is that level of limitations that are set, how is that set. So, then, if you wanted to participate to get the computer and device to participate in Dirk's program, prison scholar's fund, how is that set, and is that changing, given an opportunity to assess those levels of access?

**Dirk van Velzen:**   Yes, on our side, we provide students with a laptop. It's really a loaner, and the user could buy it when they end the program. Most people will. It is sold at a discount, really what we buy it for. We haven't run into anybody in custody who has tech limitations through the DOC. But that might come up, and that would be a different situation to deal with. We have a pretty good connection with Mac (unintelligible), and he's the guy who runs all 18,000 to 19,000 people in custody. He can probably make an exception, unless their crime was something to make that justifiable on their side.

**Harte Daniels:**  So, the DSHS will provide loaners, etc., for people to gain an education and whatnot. Would there be a correlation between, since that program or that ability is already there. Is there a way to pair, talk to an agency, etc., to help with number one, gaining the access? I also put into chat a question about whether people incarceration are made aware of the fact that, at least in the City of Seattle, the role that libraries take in addressing digital literacy. Of course, that wasn't usable during Covid, but it might be appropriate to make them aware of the public library’s services.

**Lassana Magassa:**  It's actually Washington State that makes it not okay for people to go to a library. I have to verify that, but I was told that by someone about a year ago. It was one of the things that came up, that none of the people I talked to has mentioned using the library.

**Dirk van Velzen:**   That's interesting to hear. I know when I was on work release, we could go to the library. When I was on community custody, nobody ever said I couldn't. So, maybe they're kind of crossing wires on that. Everybody was trying to sneak to the library to hang out and not walk around Seattle. I heard it mentioned that DSHS has laptops. I'd like to learn more about that. The health provider is also giving out laptops for school and work searching. We haven't received one of those laptops yet. We're going through the process right now, So I can't really say how good it is, but at least that's one opportunity.

**David Keyes:**  What was that one you just mentioned, Dirk? Link to Prison Scholar Fund programs & info: <https://www.prisonscholars.org/psf-and-coding-bootcamp/>

**Dirk van Velzen:**   It's the Amerigroup, which is the people that run Apple Health. So, if you sign up for Apple Health, then they give you a laptop for your education or work search. One of our guys at the boot camp right now is going to get the laptop, but he won't have it until May 1, because he's a brand new Apple Health person. So, I can report back on how good that is. <https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/community/supervision.htm>

**Kristophet Larsen:**  One of the things I wanted to comment upon was, Douglas, I was down for eleven and a half years. If you want to reach out, I left my contact number in there. I guess you could say that I work in the IT sector, so I am more than happy to help. But, programs like Dirk's are very, very small, and that's the problem. We need more funding to be able to get the formerly incarcerated into these types of positions and trainings. But we also have to look at some of the underlying issues of being able to get people into those positions, because when you come out of incarceration, you're pretty much forced by your community correctional officer to try to find a job. Education is far from what they want you to do. They want you to go and get a job. And so, resources at the library are tough. As a State law that formerly incarcerated people just released people can't use the library, no, that's not true. Work release, yes. They're not supposed to be going to the library unless they have authorization. As far as somebody coming out of incarceration, you're allowed to use the library. They encourage you to get a library card. But the biggest issue we have is our community corrections officers. That's where your biggest hurdle is going to be, especially if you want to go get education, they want you to go get a job. If they want you to go in one day a week, or if they want you to go in every other day to get a UA, because they just want you to do that. It's kind of sad that they have that much power. They actually kept me on my community custody a year after I was supposed to be off community custody. It was on Christmas Eve that I got an apology from a correctional officer stating that they had made a mistake. That mistake also landed me in jail because the Department of Corrections had me come into Monroe Correctional Complex to teach classes on reentry. But my CCO didn't like it, so she had me arrested because I was out of the county. So that is the BS that people have to deal with. If they want to be able to learn new technologies and start progressing, we have to start cleaning up our community corrections officers, and we also have to start funding programs that allow things like this. Now, I will say as a small piece of good news on top all this bad news, all of that is pretty much true, and we are participating with our boot camp people as a full-time program, so I talked to the Mac Pevey guy who is in charge of all of the work releases, and he said, oh, those are the old days. We don't arrest people for not working. And I think this is part of the graduate reentry programs, as long as you are not actively committing crimes, we're okay. But you know, that's coming from high up DOC. How it is really treated at the work release level is a different story. But at least we have somebody higher up in charge, so if we have any wrinkles, we can call the big guy. But you know, community custody officers, they've been doing this for 20 years, and they're not going to change their stripes any time soon. So, we're anticipating problems, and all we can do is try to get ahead of them. Here is a list of DOC Work Release programs.  <https://www.doc.wa.gov/corrections/incarceration/work-release/locations.htm>

**Lassana Magassa:**  Thank you for sharing that. I just want to underscore something. Some people coming out want to get into the technology field, so we need to make sure that there are programs and services for them, as well. Something somebody told me, his name is Jonathan Alvarez. He runs the program now in Yonkers called (unintelligible). What he told me is that technology cannot be separate from all of the other (unintelligible) that incarcerated people are dealing with when they get out. In isolation, they won't be able to make time or even be able to focus on using it. He told me about one of his program participants who he had offered digital literacy tools. He replied, 'I don't even have a house; I don't have anywhere to stay; I don't have a job. I can't do this.' But I think he said it was about four months after, he had housing, he got a job. He came back to Jonathan and said he was ready to train. (unintelligible)...  Maybe we need to integrate these other needs. Searching for housing, I shouldn't be searching for housing on my own. Then after, I search for digital training and do a credit check on myself so I can figure out what my potential landlords might think about my application. There are a lot of good programs for people leaving who are interested in going into the technology field, they're not enough, but the ones that are there (unintelligible)...

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you so much, Lassana and Douglas, and to all of the folks for adding in to this great presentation.

**Lassana Magassa:**  So sorry, Camille. Douglas, do you have any words to share with the audience.

**Douglas French:**   I actually just appreciate everybody's concern in this area. I feel like sometimes that we don't have a voice. It's nice to know that there are people out there with a voice. That's one of the reasons I started doing my college research into the pipeline of the incarcerated and homeless, because it's bad. People think they know what's best for someone who hasn't been in my situation. It's nice to know that there are other people who have been formerly incarcerated, and are working to better the system for us coming out. Because not all of us need to be thrown away.

**Harte Daniels:**  I'd like to put out that invitation to Lassana again to attend the DEI meetings, and maybe Douglas could come. Because this is something that we deal with a lot. I also put in a couple more comments into the chat that you can copy, Douglas. They want you to have a job and not go to school. There is such a thing as an apprenticeship program, and Washington is kind of nascent. There is something on the State level and we can talk about that either offline if Lassana wants to give you my information, or you can attend the DEI meeting and we can continue or ask to put it on the agenda. (No link.)

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you so much again. And a good segue to our next agenda item -- actually, before we get to committee updates, I'm going to throw it to Meira Jough.

**Meira Jough:**   Thanks, Camille. I'm Meira. Thank you, Lassana and Douglas for this excellent education, and just helping us understand better what the digital equity gaps are for formerly incarcerated folks. Thank you so much for coming and talking about that. In Seattle IT, we do support digital equity grants in the community. And so community-based organizations can apply for these grants. You don't have to be a nonprofit. You can be a community group with a fiscal agent. So, please share these digital equity grant opportunities with any organizations or groups that might want to apply for the grants.

I did talk about reviewers. Many, a good handful of you, have agreed to be reviewers for the grants. Thank you so much for that support. If anyone else would like to be a reviewer to grade the grants, please email me. I'll put my contact information into the chat. Please let me know by Friday, so that I can begin working with the review panel next week. meira.jough@seattle.gov  There is also a LinkedIn post that I'm going to share in the chat. This is a call out for private sector folks who want to invest philanthropically in digital equity projects in the community. Please share this LinkedIn post at work. Seattle IT, we offer this digital equity grant, but we also have relationships with community groups and community projects. So, if you have a company or know of a company that wants to invest in digital equity, we can help connect you with a community organization that is doing work in line with your mission and your philanthropic goals. So, I'll put that into the chat. And the deadline for the grant is May 13. Thank you.

<https://www.linkedin.com/posts/seattle-information-technology-department_2022-digital-equity-grants-activity-6918230810722533376-ACY3?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web>

**Camille Malonzo:**   Are these hands questions for Meira, from Dorene and Harte? Okay, I saw Dorene first, so Dorene, go ahead.

**Dorene Cornwell:**   Thank you. And thank you, Meira, for bringing that up. I guess I would like to say that I don't know what the maximum you can request this year, but you don't have to request the maximum unless you have a small project that even just let's figure out the dimensions of something. And you can do the fiscal agent and the document. Sometimes that can be a really good place to start. That was all. I'm seeing Meria basically nod. If I said something wrong, please tell me.

**Meira Jough:**   No, excellent point, Dorene. Thank you for mentioning that.

**Dorene Cornwell:**   And then, Harte, do you have a question?

**Harte Daniels:**  Yes, when I went to the City page, just put in <https://seattle.gov/tech/initiatives/digital-equity/funding-opportunities> to let it resolve. Before the TMF, which for those who don't know, is the Technology Matching Fund, there was information on digital navigators brand. And I haven't heard anybody here or at the City has money, and it wasn't mentioned at the DEI meeting and it isn't mentioned here. So, can either David Keyes or Meira Jough explain the what and who about the digital navigator grant from the City of Seattle. Thank you. And it might be relevant to our preceding presentation, because they seem to need quite a bit of navigation.

**Meira Jough:**   Thank you, Harte, for the question. Yes, there are two grant opportunities, the Technology Matching Fund where you can apply for up to $25,000 per organization; and then the Digital Navigator cohort grant, which is up to $50,000. David, do you want to talk a little bit about digital navigators and the Digital Navigator project?

**David Keyes:**   You're asking about the Digital Navigator grants that we're giving out?

**Harte Daniels:**  When I went to the grants page, the navigator is at the top of the page and you have to scroll down to see the TMF. And since the navigator program, like we were talking about with the State, etc., is so new, and this is the first time I've seen it on the Seattle IT page, I was wondering if you could tell people about it.

**David Keyes:**   Yes. This is a response to what we heard from the community and what we had worked on as part of the Internet for All. To some extent, we've been funding some digital navigator projects through the Technology Matching Fund grants anyway. But City Council appropriated some money. We put in a proposal as part of our Internet for All to address the strategy to do a specific cohort for a group of digital navigator projects. It complements some of the work that, like Kris Larsen and Michelle, some of the folks from EEC around here who are doing a large digital navigator project funded by the State, some work that has gone on in Seattle Housing Authority, and so on, would be for us to take some of our investment also, and do a specific targeted appropriation this year. The digital navigators, in distinction from the Technology Matching Fund generally, although they're similar, is to have a group where we help connect them to peers around the Digital Navigator to do training. We have the Seattle Public Library participating as part of that. And the funding and requests will be to have people from those organizations who want to be digital navigators, and to add to that support. Meira, do you have anything else you want to add?

**Meira Jough:**   No. I guess just a plug for the philanthropy. If your company has an interest in funding a digital navigator project, we could definitely connect you with someone through our grant review process, where we're going to be, with the support of CTAB, reviewing grants and selecting grant recipients. So, your philanthropic funding may be able to support a project that the City may not be able to fund with the funds that we have. So, I encourage you to share that.

**David Keyes:**   And that's what we did last year to help fund digital navigators at the Equity and Education Coalition. Just another note: Digital navigators, if you're somebody who wants to apply, that application can be for something that's going to help people find the resources, help them navigate to find resources online, to do things like apply for the affordable connectivity program, low-income internet programs, and so on. There could be a component that is training as part of it, or a component that's computers, but the focus is on that navigation piece.

**Harte Daniels:**  Thank you for explaining their appearance on the Seattle IT page and its distinction from TMF and how we might be able to move forward. Thank you very much for that.

**David Keyes:**   Thanks for asking.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you, David and Meira again. If you are interested in joining, please hit Meira up. It is always a great opportunity, and it's definitely rewarding, as well. Next up is our committee updates. So, for our Digital Equity Committee, Coleman, would you like to update?

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**DIGITAL EQUITY COMMITTEE**

**Coleman Entringer:**   I don't think we have any big updates from the committee. We're still trying to catch up on things from last time. We're still trying to get material regarding telecom stuff out to everybody. And then our plan was to start kicking off how we can support the TMF stuff that was mentioned before, so we'll start focusing on that as well as future speaker slots. So, I think that was pretty much everything. Harte, did I miss anything?

**Harte Daniels:**  Yes, we give a shout out to Philip Meng for his work on trying to put together, coalesce with the providers on what the wireless carriers had put out. And suggestions for follow-up on that. But, one of the last things was we will continue to talk not just about speakers but topics that we will be focusing on for the remainder of the year. That is on the next meeting's agenda. However, if people have something that they want to go onto the Digital Equity and Inclusion agenda, please notify Coleman or perhaps myself by the Friday before the meeting. And it's the fourth Tuesday of the month. So, by the Friday prior to that, if you would get us your suggestions, then we can look at putting it on the agenda. Thank you.

**PRIVACY AND CYBERSECURITY COMMITTEE**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Coleman and Harte. Erik and Nicole couldn't be here to present on Privacy and Cybersecurity, but relay that they met as a committee, and talked through the Surveillance Ordinance, and then also, looking to speakers for the Privacy Officer and CTAB. They are continuing to flesh out what would be interesting for the committee to hear about for the meeting. And then, they also are meeting with members of other boards and commissions at their next meeting to align on similar interests. And so, similarly, to the Digital Equity Committee, they also meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month. And that information is on the CTAB web site under Committees. <https://www.seattle.gov/community-technology-advisory-board>  I think that's it for the updates. We also have some time for commenting, so if folks have anything, this is the time.

**COMMENTS**

**Harte Daniels:**  I forgot to mention that we did discuss the passage of the Digital Navigators law. So, if anybody wasn't aware that that had been done, there you go. Thanks. And also, we did not have an update from DELN, as I recall, so perhaps at the next meeting. For those who don't know, that acronym is the Digital Equity and Learning Network, again, relevant to our former speakers tonight.

**David Keyes:**   If I could say just a quick word, I am not aware of specific digital navigators, in response to Harte's question. I don't know that there was a specific digital navigators bill passed, but there was a digital equity bill, House Bill 1723, that passed. It was just signed by the Governor this past week. One of the things that it does is it provides a total of $50 million for implementation of the digital equity bill related things, which include a digital equity opportunity program, local planning, a continuing State advisory board. And so, there has been discussion and I think a likely intent for some of the funds that were passed for the State to continue a digital navigators program. So, the State, in the initial round of funding have funded for projects this past year. They are supposed to run through June, so there's a fairly good chance that they will look at trying to extend some of those projects from some of the dollars there. And then, longer-term, the State is still working out exactly how they are going to disperse the funds that they do have. So, there is no specific allocation for the digital equity opportunity grant program, but there is discussion about some of those funds potentially going to that. We don't have timing yet, but I think we can likely expect another round of some grants and grant opportunities to come from the State as a result of the bill. Maybe we could it at another meeting. We're just getting some detailed information.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, David. Do folks have other updates? Otherwise, I think I will close the meeting. Thank you all so much for a great meeting and thank you again, to our presenters Lassana and Douglas, and I hope you all have an excellent rest of the evening. See you all at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**