

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 23, 2022

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **September 12, 2022 Digital Equity Initiatives Update Follow-Up**

On September 12, 2022, Staff briefed the Workforce, Education, and Equity Committee on the Digital Equity Initiatives Update (Update). The Update focused on the City and its partners' efforts to bridge the digital divide through digital equity initiatives such as the Affordable Connectivity Program, Dallas Public Library Programs and Services, Digital Navigators Program, and Digital Inclusion Week. The following questions were requested as information in a follow-up memorandum:

## **1. The use of hotspots as an option for clients in the Digital Navigators Program**

Digital Navigators will work closely with the clients to determine the connectivity solution appropriate for their household that includes not only what is available in the area but aligned to the preferences of the household. Digital Navigators will be asked to maintain detailed information related to the connectivity solutions offered and the reasoning behind the client's selection. This data will assist staff in program evaluation of outcomes and impact and potentially any future program modifications.

## **2. Digital Navigators and a Train the Trainer Program**

Staff will develop a second component to the Digital Navigators solicitation for a 'Train the Trainer' Program to address the organizational capacity of organizations that may not have dedicated 'digital equity' programming but have established relationships and connections with communities we intend to serve. Staff will provide an update on the development of this program in November in conjunction with an update to the Digital Navigator Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals (RFCSP).

## **3. Mapping overlay of areas lacking internet and internet service availability**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) are both working to collect data from internet service providers (ISP) to develop and update their current broadband maps with more detailed and precise information on the availability of fixed and mobile broadband services. Both agencies are currently collecting ISP data, then will open the data validation and verification period to governments at the state and local level in Spring 2023. Staff will provide updates once the maps and data become available.

## **4. Type of Connection in 'Percent of Households with No Internet Access' Map**

As per the Census, the 'Percent of Households with No Internet Access' data is:  
*"Estimated percent of households with no internet access, between 2016-2020. Internet access can include a subscription for dial-up, cellular, cable, fiber optic, DSL, satellite, or other service, or internet access without a subscription."*

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The data **may** capture the cellular internet connections potentially used by households under the 'other service' category.

## 5. Middle Mile terminology and RFCSP Timeline

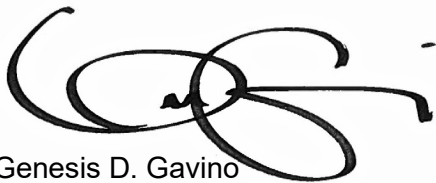
In simple terms, the 'Middle Mile' is defined as *the mid-section of an Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over mid to long distances.*

The definition in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the US Government's Middle Mile Grant Program is:

Middle Mile Infrastructure.—The term "middle mile infrastructure"— (A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution; and (B) includes— (i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and (ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links.

The current timeline for the release of the Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal (RFCSP) is October 15, 2022. Staff is currently reviewing a draft developed by CTC Technology and Energy alongside the City Attorney's Office and Office of Procurement Services for the next two weeks. The expectation is that the RFCSP will be on the street for no less than 60 calendar days and the City will hold at least 2 industry sessions for potential proposers to walk attendees through the RFCSP in a public forum and invite questions.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [genesis.gavino@dallas.gov](mailto:genesis.gavino@dallas.gov).



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