Request for Information
Use of City Assets to Advance Digital Equity

Informational Session
September 2022

City of Philadelphia

Context
Philadelphia's Digital Divide
City of
Philadelphia

Why We Are Here

City of Philadelphia's Digital Equity Plan identifies initiatives that seek to leverage use of City-owned Assets to create a more equitable city.

01 City pilots use of its assets to facilitate community-led wireless networks

- City can enable new, fixed wireless networks using municipal buildings, transportation infrastructure, street furniture, and other assets.

02 The City creates a revenue generating stream to support its portfolio of digital equity programs.

- The City can work toward an investment strategy, using ***city assets and other revenue generating methods***, to ensure funds are available for digital equity initiatives.
- City-generated revenue will allow flexibility to support programs not covered by federal or state funding,

Our vision is to:

create a competitive city where everyone has reliable internet, a working device, and the skills necessary to participate fully in the economy and our democracy.

…AND be a Smart City

A city that applies innovation, data and technology to achieve the economic, social, and sustainability goals of its community.

16%

of Philadelphia households lack high-speed internet

56% said the **cost of monthly fee** was a problem and **50%** said they could **not afford the cost of a computer.**

- 29% of low-income Philadelphians lack internet
- 33% of seniors lack internet
- One-third of residents in Philadelphia have difficulty keeping their internet service without a discount.

32%

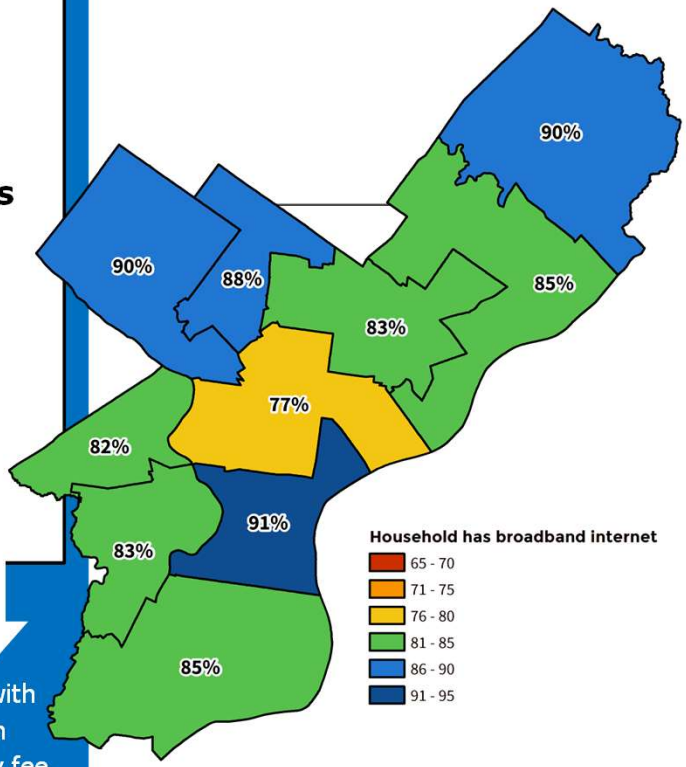
of Philadelphia households are considered "subscription vulnerable."

Subscription vulnerable households are low-income households that experienced service interruption in the pandemic or say it would be difficult to keep service without a discount

31%

have heard of discount programs for Internet & devices

More than 90% of those with broadband subscriptions in Philadelphia say a monthly fee of over $20 per month is too expensive.



What is the Challenge?

City needs a reliable, long-term revenue stream to sustain digital equity work.

Current Digital Equity initiatives are funded through short-term philanthropic, state or federal funding

The City has assets that may be of value that could be leveraged to energize the local economy in digital service delivery

A call to action for a smart, equitable city

The City seeks ideas and input on city assets that could be made available:

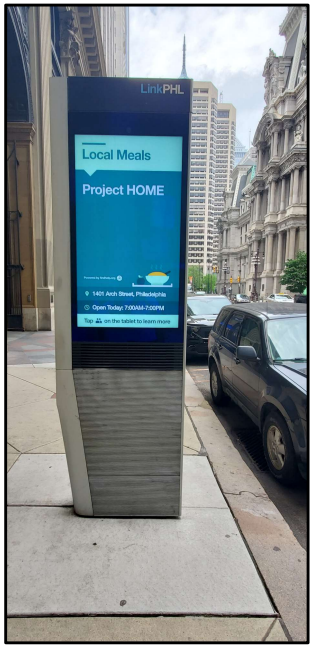
1. As in-kind to provide direct low-cost or free digital services

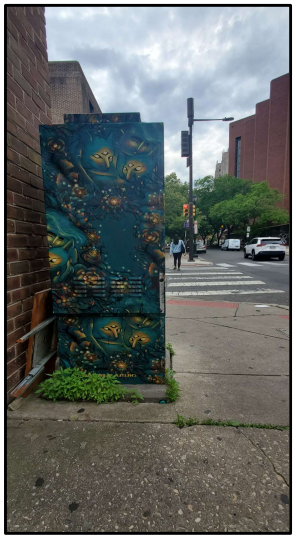
2. Toward other technology advancements that would help fund digital equity needs

The City envisions that resulting public/private partnerships would offer services and/or a revenue model that would help Philadelphia address our digital divide challenge.

The City is interested in innovative ideas that could leverage city assets including but not limited to:

- Free or low-cost, high-speed wireless networks
- Digital Advertising
- Intelligent Infrastructure
- Transportation Analytics
  - Infrastructure Monitoring
  - Public Space Management
  - Delivery and Parking Analytics and Payment
- Public Safety
- Park or Campus Lighting Controls





The City is interested in ideas for use of *city-owned facilities*

There are over 1000 facilities listed in the City's Assets Map application:
http://city-assets-viewer.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/

Highway 4th District Yard Bldg, 4521 Stenton Ave.

67 City Office and Multi-Use Buildings

47 Libraries

Health Center 5: 1900-26 N 20TH ST

17 Health and Human Services Facilities

15 Transit and Parking Lots

Fire Engine 25: 2937 BOUDINOT ST

63 Public Safety

23 Museums and Zoo

Conestoga Playground Building 1452 N 53RD ST

792 Parks and Recreation

The City is open to the idea of providing access to ***additional assets***

Assets managed by separate utilities or **not owned** by the City are **not included in this RFI**.

These other assets might include:

- School District or Charter School buildings
- Electric Utility Systems
- Street Lighting
- Water Utility Systems
- Gas Utility Systems
- Traffic Systems
- Bus-Rail Systems
- Parking Systems
- Waste Management Systems
- Tourism
- Vehicle fleets
- IT Communications: wired and wireless networks

Things to consider in your response / What we are interested in learning

1. What type of access, how often, what's the best way for you to get access?
   a. Does this include 3rd parties?

2. What other support equipment or services would be needed to provide the services you propose?
   a. For example: electricity, computer servers, staff, etc.

3. Explain how your revenue and/or cost sharing model works and provide examples you have in place with other cities or counties

4. What federal/state funding sources would you braid together or tap?

5. What type of technology integrator and/or project management roles can you fulfill?

The City's commitment to support the journey

- All ideas should be on the table
- Central coordination of all assets under consideration
- PMO to coordinate and facilitate
- Commitment to transparency
- Potential to develop a Master License Agreement
- Consideration for one or more RFPs
- Commitment to advancing our digital equity plan
- Consideration of federal and state funding under IIJA or other sources

How to Respond

One electronic copy in machine-readable format (MS Word format or PDF) should be sent via email to both:

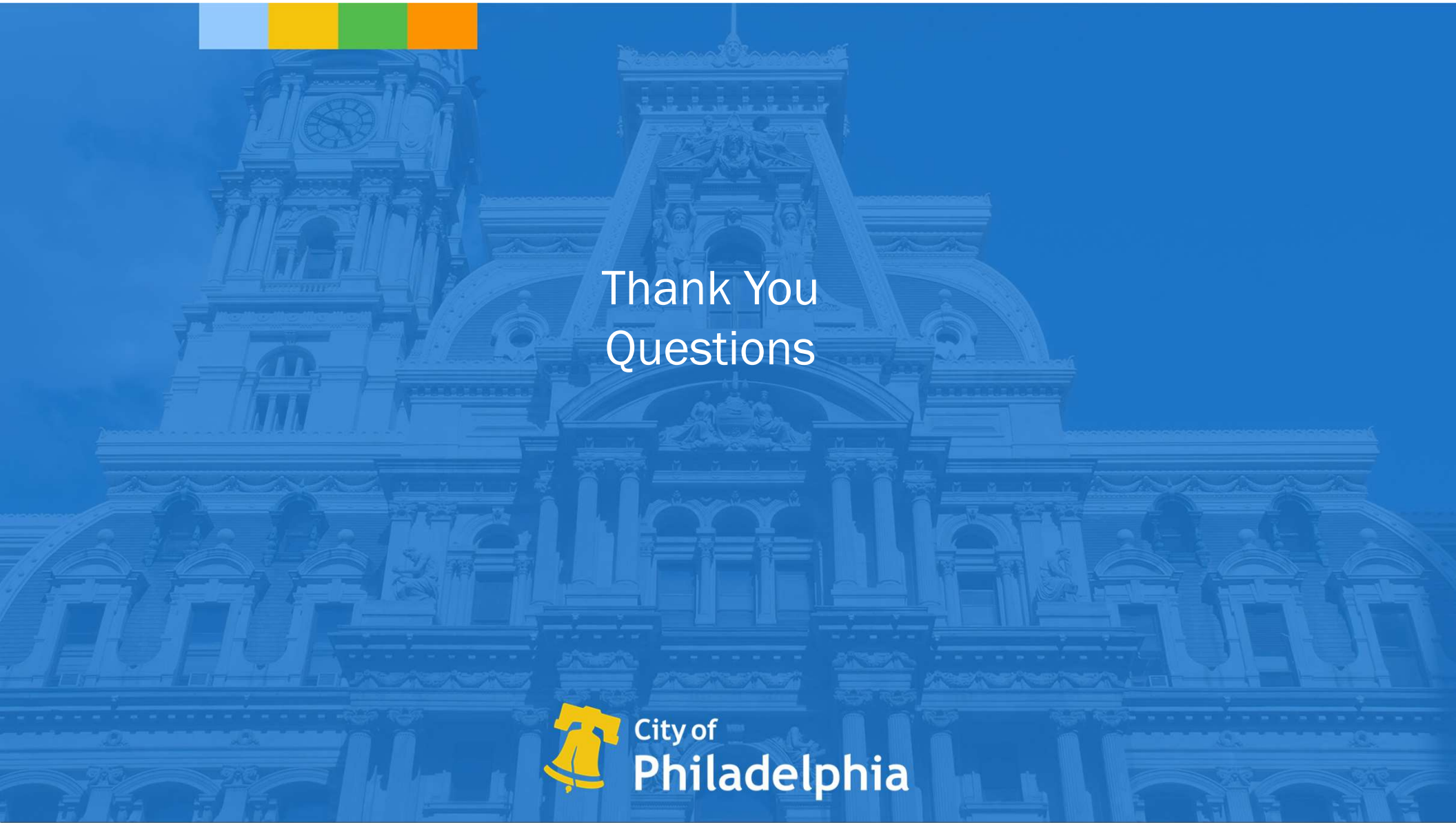
- Juliet.Fink-Yates@phila.gov
- Gayle.Ruggeri@Phila.gov
- Use the subject line **"Use of Assets – First name, Last name".**
- Please use the RFI template provided in Appendix A for your responses.

Your proposal should also include:

- A cover letter which summarizes your response
- The response itself, covering any or all of the areas of information requested by this RFI.

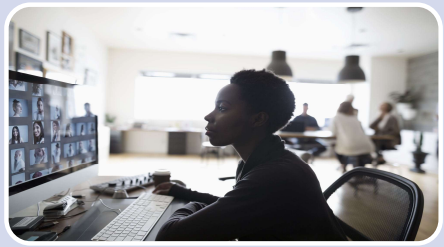
Timeline

Release of Request for Information (RFI)	**8/05/22**
Informational Session (Registration required)	9/01/22 at 3:00 p.m. EST – Register HERE 9/08/22 at 10:00 a.m. EST – Register HERE
Deadline for questions, requests for clarification, or requests for additional information **(email Juliet.Fink-Yates@phila.gov and Gayle.Ruggeri@Phila.gov)**	9/09/22 by 5:00 p.m. EST
City Responds to Questions (http://www.phila.gov/rfp)	9/16/22
Responses to RFI Due **Email Juliet.Fink-Yates@phila.gov and Gayle.Ruggeri@Phila.gov)**	9/30/22 by 5:00 p.m. EST


Thank You
Questions
City of
Philadelphia

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

4 KEY GOALS

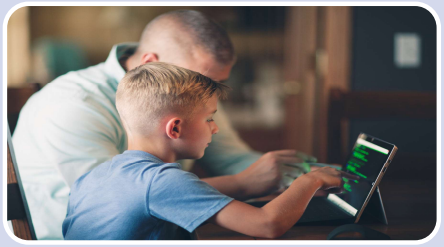


GOAL 1: DEVICES

PHILADELPHIANS CAN ACCESS APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

GOAL #2: CONNECTIVITY

PHILADELPHIANS CAN ACCESS AND AFFORD THE INTERNET CONNECTIVITY THEY NEED



GOAL #3: TRAINING & WORKFORCE

PHILADELPHIANS DEVELOP THE DIGITAL SKILLS NECESSARY FOR WORK AND LIFE

GOAL #4: ECOSYSTEM

PHILADELPHIA GROWS AND SUSTAINS THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECOSYSTEM TO INCREASE DIGITAL EQUITY