DIGITAL EQUITY UPDATES AND NEWS

Stay current on what's happening in digital equity in Baltimore City—from programs and initiatives to events. This is the latest information from the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity (BDE), a division of the Baltimore City Office of Information and Technology (BCIT).

_____

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Baltimore's Digital Equity Fund Continues to Impact Residents for the Better

Launched April 2023, the Digital Equity Fund supports the creation of community-led digital inclusion plans and provides funding for communities to bring those plans to life. The fund currently supports 22 Baltimore-based organizations with over 27 digital inclusion projects.

Digital Equity Fund grantees have actively engaged residents to provide digital services—ranging from affordable Wi-Fi access and technological devices to digital skills training. To date, Digital Equity Fund grantees have successfully delivered digital services to over 570 residents. To learn more about the fund and the grantees, visit **technology.baltimorecity.gov**.

Digital Equity Fund Networking Event

In March, Digital Equity Fund grant recipients participated in an enriching networking opportunity to exchange insights and foster potential collaborations. Throughout the event, grantees engaged in a variety of activities meticulously curated to facilitate networking and collaboration. From structured sessions to informal discussions, the networking event provided grantees with a platform to share ideas on how to bridge the digital divide in Baltimore's communities.

Digital Equity Fund grant recipients engage in discussion during a special networking event. (Photo Credit: BCIT, March 2024)

Wellness and Digital Literacy Programs Offer Boost to the Wellbeing of Older Adults

Through a partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Baltimore Health Department's Division of Aging, wellness and digital literacy training programs are in full swing at Baltimore's senior centers. These programs help older adults enhance their digital skills and improve health outcomes.

Wellness Program

The Wellness Program connects older adults to healthcare resources and services, ensuring senior centers can help address the digital divide in healthcare access. Currently, the Wellness Program is active at the Harford Senior Center, Oliver Senior Center, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library Central and Penn North locations. During operating hours, older adults can visit these locations on Mondays and Wednesdays for the following wellness services:

- Telehealth education
- General health assessments
- Blood pressure checks
- Medicine education
- Assistance with locating healthcare providers
- Referrals for care
- Health education and promotion

Wellness Program by the Numbers

Wellness Program Location	Older Adults Served to Date	Address	Contact Number
Harford Senior Center	148	4920 Harford Road Baltimore, MD 21224	(410) 426-4009
Enoch Pratt Central Library	58	400 Cathedral Street Baltimore, MD 21201	(410) 396-5430
Enoch Pratt Pennsylvania Avenue Branch	70	1531 W. North Avenue Baltimore, MD 21217	(410) 396-0399
Oliver Senior Center	104	1700 N. Gay Street Baltimore, MD 21213	(410) 396-3861
Total	**380**	**--**	**--**

Digital Literacy Training Program

The Digital Literacy Training Program empowers older adults with digital skills essential for navigating today's technology-driven world. Through patient instruction and hands-on practice older adults will build confidence in using computers, smartphones, tablets, and the internet for everyday tasks and greater connectivity. Training topics include, but are not limited to:

- Introduction to the Internet
- Computer Basics
- Cell Phone Basics
- Social Media
- Chromebook and Keyboard Basics

DIGITAL EQUITY UPDATES AND NEWS

- Staying Safe Online
- Introduction to Google Calendar
- Introduction to Google Docs

Schedule and location details for the Digital Literacy Training Program are below.

Senior Center	Schedule	Address	Contact Number
Forest Park Senior Center	Monthly/3rd Thursdays 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	4801 Liberty Heights Avenue Baltimore, MD 21207	(410) 466-2124
Greenmount Senior Center	Weekly/Tuesdays 12:30 – 2 p.m.	425 E. Federal Street Baltimore, MD 21201	(410) 528-1552
Hatton Senior Center	Monthly/4th Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	2825 Fait Avenue Baltimore, MD 21224	(410) 396-9025
Harford Senior Center	Monthly/2nd Thursdays 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	4920 Harford Road Baltimore, MD 21224	(410) 426-4009
Oliver Senior Center	Monthly/1st & 3rd Mondays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	1700 N. Gay Street Baltimore, MD 21213	(410) 396-3861
Sandtown-Winchester	Monthly/1st & 2nd Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	1600 Baker Street Baltimore, MD 21217	(410) 396-7998
Senior Network of Baltimore	Monthly/4th Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	5828 York Road Baltimore, MD 21212	(410) 323-7131
Zeta Center for Healthy and Active Aging	Monthly/4th Mondays 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	4501 Reisterstown Road Baltimore, MD 21215	(410) 396-3535

Have You Checked Out Baltimore City's Digital Inclusion Strategy?

Released December 2023, Baltimore City's Digital Inclusion Strategy aims to further develop Baltimore's digital infrastructure and help residents and businesses harness the power of technology for their benefit and the betterment of Baltimore.

Four actionable goals anchor the strategy and help guide the city's activities and investments in the digital ecosystem.

- **Reliable High-Speed Internet:** Starting with the most underserved communities, Baltimore City residents will have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet based on investments in future-proof fiber optic networks.

- **Technology and Devices:** Baltimore City residents will be able to get a modern computing device.

- **Digital Skills Training:** Baltimore City residents will have access to digital skills training, helping them use computing devices and safely navigate the internet.

- **Technical Support:** Baltimore City residents will receive technical support — in multiple languages — to master internet access and devices.

Read the full Digital Inclusion Strategy.

DIGITAL EQUITY UPDATES AND NEWS

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Tech Hubs at Recreation Centers Reach Milestone with Completion of Phase 2

Phase two of the tech hub initiative at Baltimore's recreation centers sees the deployment of Chromebooks to various recreation centers for public use, vastly expanding opportunities for learning, skills development, and digital access.

During operating hours, residents can stop by the following recreation centers to use a Chromebook on site for free.

Recreation Center	Chromebooks Available for Public Use	Address	Contact Number
Bentalou	15	222 N. Bentalou Street Baltimore, MD 21223	(410) 396-0105
Cahill	20	4001 Clifton Avenue Baltimore, MD 21216	(410) 396-0259
Carroll F. Cook	15	5061 E. Eager Street Baltimore, MD 21205	(410) 396-9089
Cecil Kirk	15	909 E. 22nd Street Baltimore, MD	(410) 396-6750
Coldstream	10	1401 Fillmore Street Baltimore, MD 21218	(410) 396-6746
Curtis Bay	20	1630 Filbert Street Baltimore, MD 21226	(410) 396-1811
Edgewood-Lyndhurst	20	835 Allendale Street Baltimore, MD 21229	(443) 984-3105
Ella Bailey	20	100 E. Heath Street Baltimore, MD 21230	(410) 396-4634
Farring-Baybrook	15	4501 Farring Court Brooklynn, MD 21225	(410) 396-2595
Fred B. Leidig	15	301 S. Beechfield Avenue Baltimore, MD 21229	(410) 396-0073
Greenmount	10	2304 Greenmount Avenue Baltimore, MD 21218	(410) 396-6708
Harlem Park	10	700 N. Calhoun Street Baltimore, MD 21217	(443) 984-1293
Herring Run	10	5001 Sinclair Lane Baltimore, MD 21206	(410) 396-3060
James McHenry	10	911 Hollins Street Baltimore, MD 21223	(410) 396-5016
Locust Point	20	1627 E. Fort Avenue Baltimore, MD 21230	(410) 837-4423
Madison Square	20	1400 E. Biddle Street Baltimore, MD 21213	(410) 396-9284
Medfield	10	1501 Woodheights Avenue Baltimore, MD 21211	(443) 690-2698
Middle Branch	20	201 Reedbird Avenue Baltimore, MD 21225	(410) 396-9527

Mora Crossman	15	701 Rappolla Street Baltimore, MD 21224	(410) 396-9222
Mount Royal	20	120 W. Mosher Street Baltimore, MD 21217	(410) 396-0374
Northwood	20	1517 Winford Road Baltimore, MD 21239	(410) 396-6696
Rita Church	20	2101 St. Lo Drive Baltimore, MD 21213	(410) 396-8958
Robert C. Marshall	20	1201 Pennsylvania Avenue Baltimore, MD 21202	(410) 396-8490
Roosevelt	15	1221 W. 36th Street Baltimore, MD 21211	(410) 396-6050
Samuel F.B. Morse	10	424 S. Pulaski Street Baltimore, MD 21223	(410) 396-3717
Solo Gibbs	10	1044 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, MD 21230	(410) 837-8172
Towanda	15	4100 Towanda Avenue Baltimore, MD 21215	(443) 984-9763
Upton Boxing Center	10	1901 Pennsylvania Avenue Baltimore, MD 21217	(443) 984-2588
Woodhome	20	7310 Moyer Avenue Baltimore, MD 21234	(410) 396-6703

Learn more about tech hubs in our December 2023 issue.

Baltimore City Chromebook Distribution Updates

To date, nearly 20,000 Baltimore City households have received a Chromebook. An achievement made possible through a distribution partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library and several community partners:

- Thread
- Maryland Family Network
- Housing Authority of Baltimore City
- Enterprise Community Development
- Project Waves

Baltimore residents in need a of device, can visit **prattlibrary.org/getadevice** to learn more about eligibility and qualification requirements and make an appointment at the nearest pickup location.

Residents can get assistance with making an appointment by contacting Marylanders Online at (301) 405-9810.

In partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore City is distributing 50,000 Chromebooks to eligible households in need of devices. The Chromebooks were secured through a grant from the State of Maryland's ***Connected Devices program****, which is managed by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and assists counties and municipal governments in their digital equity and inclusion efforts.*

DIGITAL EQUITY UPDATES AND NEWS

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Code in the Schools, a Baltimore-based nonprofit organization, focuses its mission on addressing the underrepresentation of youth in technology-related fields. By eliminating structural barriers and educational inequalities, Code in the Schools aims to create opportunities for all. Through its weekly computer build classes and technical assistance to Baltimore residents, the organization has exceeded its goals.

Collaboration with Greenmount West Community Center

Code in the Schools successfully trained Maryland Service Fellow and Baltimore resident Colby Davis to serve as the digital equity coordinator for the Greenmount West Community Center. Colby's training gives him the knowledge needed to address the digital inclusion needs within the center and the wider Greenmount West community, while also providing hands-on technical training to youth.

To commemorate this accomplishment, Code in the Schools and the Greenmount West Community Center hosted an open house event in February. During the open house, students, their families, and members of the community learned more about Colby's experience as a Maryland Service Fellow and Greenmount West Community Center's digital equity coordinator. Open house participants also got a chance to engage in hands-on technical activities, including using virtual reality headsets.

Members of the community attend an open house event hosted by Code in the Schools and the Greenmount West Community Center. (Photo Credit: BCIT, February 2024)

For more information about Code in the Schools' programs and resources, visit **https://www.codeintheschools.org/sy24**. Make sure to connect with Code in the Schools on **X/Twitter**, **Instagram**, **Facebook**, and **LinkedIn**.

---

*Code in the Schools is a recipient of a grant from Baltimore City's Digital Equity Fund. The fund supports the creation of community-led digital inclusion plans and provides funding for communities to bring those plans to life. **Learn more about the Digital Equity Fund grantees**.*

BROADBAND UPDATES

FreeBmoreWiFi Coverage Map Now Available

Expansion of FreeBmoreWiFi, Baltimore's free public Wi-Fi network, continues across the city, ensuring residents can stay connected, informed, and engaged with their community.

Keep track of the City's expansion efforts with the all-new FreeBmoreWiFi Coverage Map. Use the map to view both active and planned FreeBmoreWiFi locations. **View the coverage map here**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Digital Inclusion Community Meeting (Virtual)
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Residents can join members of the BDE team for important updates on programs and resources designed to help residents overcome the digital divide. Topics covered include Baltimore City's Chromebook Distribution Program, the Affordable Connectivity Program, digital skills training opportunities, and much more. **Register now**.

CONNECT WITH US

Make sure you sign up to receive the bi-monthly update and other digital equity and inclusion news from the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity. **Sign up now**.

Follow BCIT on these social media platforms:

About the Office of Broadband and Digital Equity
BCIT's Office of Broadband and Digital Equity (BDE), leads the City's efforts to close the digital divide permanently and serves as Baltimore City government's primary liaison with internal and external stakeholders in digital equity. BDE envisions Baltimore as a city where residents can fully participate in the digital ecosystem and have access to devices, technical assistance, digital education, and affordable and reliable internet in the home. For more information about the city's BDE programs and initiatives, email **bde@baltimorecity.gov**, or call (443) 984-9740.