Resources for Broadband Advocates: Making Digital Equity a Reality in Pennsylvania

Welcome and Report Objectives
Francella Ochillo, Next Century Cities

Snapshot of Broadband Access and Adoption in Pennsylvania
Ryan Johnston, Next Century Cities

State and Federal Broadband Funding Programs
Brian Donoghue, Next Century Cities

Mobilizing Pennsylvania Communities
Corian Zacher, Next Century Cities

Working in Coalition
Jennifer Blatz, Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance

Academic Partnerships That Help Inform Policymaking
Sascha Meinrath, Penn State University and X-Lab

Tailoring Communications Strategies
Brittany-Rae Gregory, Next Century Cities

Advocacy Strategies for Broadband Advocates in Pennsylvania

WEBINAR

Monday, June 26, 2023
2:00 – 2:45 PM ET

Email **info@nextcenturycities.org** for more information.

Strategies for Broadband Advocates in Pennsylvania

Communications

1. Meet people where they are (social media, in-person events)
2. Use accessible language (<u>NRPA Equity Language Guide</u>)
3. Develop a timeline & schedule

Resources for Broadband Advocates in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

- Community conversation events: *input opportunities through July 20th*
- PA Broadband Infrastructure Program *August 10th Application Deadline*

Federal Reserve Banks

- Broadband Subscription, Computer Access, and Labor Market Attachment Across U.S. Metros
- Access to Broadband is Essential for Positive Economic Outcomes

Resources for Broadband Advocates in Pennsylvania

National Research

- <u>Broadband Pricing: What Consumer Reports Learned From 22,000 Internet Bills</u> (Consumer Reports)
- <u>National Strategy Needed to Guide Federal Efforts to Reduce Digital Divide</u> (Government Accountability Office)

Local Initiatives for Broadband Advocates in Pennsylvania

Local Infrastructure Funding

- Beaver County, PA
- Dauphin County, PA
- Centre County, PA

Philadelphia

- Digital Equity Plan
- Affordable Connectivity Program

Resources for Broadband Advocates in Pennsylvania

Upcoming Events

- **PA Statewide Broadband Connectivity and Digital Access Survey**. Contact pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov with questions about the survey.
- **Broadband Community Conversation for BEAD and Digital Equity Grant Planning** at Widener University on June 27th at 6:00 p.m. ET
- **Internet for All Workshop**: Connecting the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on July 13th from 9:00 to 4:00 pm ET

Guest Speakers

Jen Blatz

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Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance
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Sascha Meinrath

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