Community Space Public Wi-Fi Program Information Session

Meeting is being recorded
Team

**Meredith Lewis**  
CFWM Director Community Impact and Partnerships

**Emily Bronson**  
BTCF Senior Community Engagement Officer for Initiatives & Special Projects

**Patrick Streck**  
Alliance for Digital Equity Consultant
Background on funding

**Massachusetts Broadband Institute**

- Broadband Innovation Fund was established to bridge the digital divide as a component of the Commonwealth’s COVID recovery and response efforts
- $5.1 million grant award to the Alliance for four different initiatives
- Additional statewide efforts to look at digital equity
This Opportunity

• Two part-process culminating in about $5000 grant for equipment and installation to add or increase public Wi-Fi access.

• Part 1: Survey and assessment of current capacity and needs

• Part 2: Affirmation of intention
Eligibility

Located in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and/or Hampshire

Potential applicants include

- Libraries
- Public housing common spaces
- Community centers
- Senior centers
- Educational facilities
- Workforce training centers
- Other nonprofit organizations

Can be municipality-owned or other public space serve the intended populations. Entities must be ready and able to expand public internet access.
Population Served

Low income or digital disenfranchised

• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
• Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
• Federal Communications Commission’s Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
• Households including a child eligible for federally recognized free or reduced-price lunch.

Income-level based on the following U.S. Treasury definitions:
• “Impacted” either at or below 300% of Federal Property guidelines for household size or income at or below 65% of AMI.
• “Disproportionately Impacted” at or below 185% of Federal Poverty guidelines for household size or income at or below 40% of AMI.
• Taking place in a qualified census tract (QCT) or zip code where median income is less than 50% state average or there is at least 25% poverty rate.
Create New Account

If you already have an Account, click the 'Cancel Account Creation' button to go to the Logon page.

⚠️ Using the browser’s back button will delete your registration information.

This registration process has multiple steps you must complete before you can apply.

Fields with an asterisk (*) are required.

Organization Information

Organization Name

OR your name if applying as an artist to ValleyCreates

Community Program

EIN / Tax ID (###-####-####)*

00-0000000

Telephone Number (area-code-xxxx-xxxx) *

415-000-0000

Address 1 *

123 State St.

City*

Springfield

Postal Code *

01104

Please choose the response that best describes your organization*

Fiscally sponsored - enter 00-0000000 for the EIN #

OR personal email if applying as an artist to ValleyCreates

me@communityprogram.org

Next >>
Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Applicant Dashboard

Please contact Margaret Everett at grants@communityfoundation.org if any information in your Organization Summary does not appear correctly.

Applicant:
Jeffrey Martham
jme@takeemail.com
413-555-5555
123 State St.
Springfield, MA 01104

Organization:
Community Program
00-000000
123 State St.
Springfield, MA 01104

If your organization information does not appear correct, please contact the funder. Thank you.

You do not have any Active Requests. Click Apply to begin the application process.
The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation with funding from the Alliance for Digital Equity and Baystate Health, are providing an opportunity to advance digital equity through their Community Space Public Wi-Fi program in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties.

The goal is to help entities increase access to the internet for community members, particularly those who are experiencing economic hardship, by providing new or expanded Wi-Fi in spaces used by the community. This opportunity is to provide eligible organizations with funding to install new or expanded Wi-Fi capabilities onsite to benefit the communities they serve. The grant will cover the full amount of the estimated costs based on our technical assessment. Public spaces include libraries, community centers, senior centers, educational facilities, workforce training centers and any other public space that serves the intended population.

Timeline:
Questionnaire Walkthrough
Timeline: Stage 1

- Stage 1 will close, and questionnaires will no longer be accepted as of **January 29, 2024 at 5:00PM**.

- Organizations will be notified on a rolling basis **no later than February 16, 2024**.

- If an organization’s application is determined to be eligible, Patrick will contact you to set up a site visit or phone call meeting to conduct a technical assessment.
  - Organizations invited to participate in the Stage 2 application will receive a written estimate detailing the technical specifications and estimated costs for the installation.
Timeline: Stage 2

• Invited organizations will have until March 15, 2024 to submit the simplified Stage 2 application.
  • The Stage 2 application will affirm your organization is willing to purchase and install the needed hardware as proposed in the technical assessment.
• Organizations who are not invited to participate in Stage 2 will receive information from the technical assessment that may help them with future expansion of internet.
• Organizations will be notified of funding decisions by April 1, 2024.
• Installation must be completed by September 1, 2024.
Questions?
grants@communityfoundation.org