



MEMORANDUM

TO: Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

FROM: GTOPs 2016 Working Group via John Speirs, Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs

DATE: October 14, 2015

SUBJECT: 2016 GTOPs Review Working Group Recommendations

The purpose of this report is for the Commission to review and approve recommendations for the 2016 Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) Working Group. As previously communicated at the August 12th Tech & Telecom Commission meeting, these recommendations are after soliciting feedback from organizations during the GTOPs 2015 process, frontline feedback gathered from community stakeholders and the City's intent to fulfill objectives of the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan.

The Commission appointed, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the GTOPs 2016 Working Group with Commissioners Johnson, Floyd, Yeatts and Williams on consent vote by the Commission. Commissioner Johnson served as Chairs of this Working Group. The Working Group met on September 4th and continued to deliberate via email communication to reach consensus for the recommendations being considered today.

Recommended Goals

The Working Group recommends the Commission consider and approve new goals consistent with the Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan.

- Provide public access to computers and information technology, especially among underserved segments of our community.
- Provide information technology literacy, education, and training.
- Use information and communication technologies in innovative ways to serve the Austin community.
- Address the 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan Goals.

Previous Goals:

- Support programs that provide public access to computers and information technology, especially among underserved segments of our community.
- Support programs that provide information technology literacy, education, and training.
- Support programs that use information and communication technologies in innovative ways that serve the community.

- Provide seed funding for Austin community and non-profit organizations for technological outreach and engagement efforts.

Mission and Vision

The Working Group considered the vision, mission and goals of GTOPs and had no changes to recommend:

- The GTOPs program provides matching funds to Austin organizations and citizens' groups for projects focusing on use of information technology and connecting our citizens with computers and the Internet.
- *Vision:* A community where all citizens have access to the facilities and the necessary skills to participate in an emerging digital society.
- *Mission:* To provide matching grant funds to Austin organizations for projects that create digital opportunities and foster digital inclusion.

Grant Reviewers' Application

The Working Group Recommends the only change to amend the stated goals with the previously recommended Goals. The Goals will be to support programs that:

- Provide public access to computers and information technology, especially among underserved segments of our community.
- Provide information technology literacy, education, and training.
- Use information and communication technologies in innovative ways to serve the Austin community.
- Address the 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan Goals.

GTOPs Application Scoring Criteria

Goals of DI Strategic Plan:

- Understand and Increase Usage of Digital and Communications Technology
- Address Potential Barriers to Digital Inclusion
- Develop programs to address need for Digital Literacy Training
- Develop programs to address need for Access via Reliable & Affordable Devices
- Develop programs to address Need for Language & Disability Accommodations
- Develop Relevancy & Advocacy Campaigns Within Specific Communities & Populations

I.--- 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan Goals - 15 total

- This program plan has demonstrated alignment with the 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan. (15 pts)

II.---- Community impact - 30 total

- The program plan and its objectives are well defined and serve a community need. (10 pts)
- This program plan demonstrates that if implemented it will have an ongoing/lasting positive impact on the community. (10 pts)
- This program plan has demonstrated that it has collaboration partners w/ in the community we are seeking to serve.(10 pts)

III.---- Evaluation of success - 25 total

- This program has a clear plan for success. Its goals and objectives are achievable and its work plan is feasible. (10 pts)
- This program plan demonstrates its ability to evaluate its own success and reviewers agree that its proposed measures for evaluation are viable and appropriate. (5 pts)
- The organization has provided documentation of demonstrated success as an organization (10 pts):
- New to GTOPs: Success in similar programs or of proposed staff and volunteers executing program plan.
- Former GTOPs grant recipients: Historical reviews of programs funded through GTOPs.

IV.---- Budget and fiscal responsibility - 30 total

- The organization that is executing on the program plan is a fiscally responsible organization that will use City funds and matching criteria of the grant appropriately if awarded this grant. (15 pts)
- This program plan has provided all required documentation, including its budget, which clearly shows its annual revenue and matching dollars (in-kind and/or cash). (10 pts)
- The program plan outlines a plan for sustainability of the program beyond the GTOPs grant. (5 pts)

Basic Scoring for Criteria with 15 pts for I.1:

1. Does not address any goals of DI Strat. Plan.
2. Addresses issues that surround the goals of the DI Strat Plan.
3. Continuation of program previously funded; does not address current goals of DI Strat Plan.
4. Touches on one goal of DI Strat. Plan.
5. Touches on multiple goals.
6. Touches on two or more goals
7. Directly addresses one goal.
8. Directly addresses two goals
9. Directly addresses two goals and touches upon one other goal
10. Directly addresses three goals
11. Directly addresses three goals and touches upon one other goal
12. Directly addresses four goals
13. Directly addresses four goals and touches upon one other goal
14. Directly addresses five goals and touches upon one other goal
15. Directly Addresses six goals

Basic Scoring for Criteria with 15 pts for IV.1:

- 1-3. No faith in organization's ability to manage funds and matching funds appropriately.
- 4-6. Grave concerns about organization's ability to manage funds and matching funds appropriately.
- 7-10. Prior track record raises concern of organization's ability to manage funds and matching funds appropriately.
- 11-12. Some concerns regarding organization's ability to manage funds and matching funds appropriately.
- 13-14. Concerns regarding organization's ability to manage funds and matching funds appropriately are alleviated by program plan and documentation about current capabilities of organization to manage funds and matching funds appropriately.
- 15. No question organization will manage funds and matching funds appropriately.

Basic Scoring for Criteria with 10 pts:

- 0.0 Does not fit criteria.
- 1.0 Fits with major weaknesses.
- 2.0 Fits with moderate weaknesses
- 3.0 Fits with minor weaknesses.
- 4.0 Fits with no discernible weaknesses; not remarkable.
- 5.0 Strong with moderate weaknesses.
- 6.0 Strong with minor weaknesses
- 7.0 Strong with no discernible weaknesses.
- 8.0 Extremely strong with moderate weaknesses.
- 9.0 Extremely strong with minor weaknesses.
- 10.0 Perfectly fits criteria and goals.

Basic Scoring for Criteria with 5 pts:

- 0.0 Does not fit criteria.
- 1.0 Fits with major weaknesses.
- 2.0 Fits with no discernible weaknesses; not remarkable.
- 3.0 Strong with moderate weaknesses.
- 4.0 Extremely strong with moderate weaknesses.
- 5.0 Perfectly fits criteria and goals.

Conclusion

The GTOPs 2016 Working Group recommends the Commission approve the GTOPs Goals, Application Scoring Criteria, Grantee Application, and Grant Reviewers' Application.

Exhibits

- A) GTOPs 2016 Timeline (as previously approved)
- B) Blank Program Application for GTOPs (Recommendation for Approval Needed)
- C) 2016 Grant Review Committee Application (Recommendation for Approval Needed)