DIGITAL CIVIC UNDERGROUND

WELCOME!

A friendly and engaging conversation about digital inclusion and digital accessibility in Vermont.

Agenda

5:30pm - Welcome & Introductions
6:00pm - Context & Background (30 min)
6:30pm - Group Activity
7:00 pm - Reflections and next steps
7:30 pm - Program Ends

Introductions: Name, where you are from, what brought you here today, and your favorite winter activity?

Today's goals:

- Draw attention to the digital divide that impacts many diverse communities in and around Burlington.

- Identify what we all are currently doing and/or what we could be doing to increase digital inclusion locally.

- Figure out ways to leverage the uniqueness (large new american population, universities, many existing orgs) of the area.

Topics from our previous event included:

- What are some examples of healthy and unhealthy markers for Digital Inclusion in Burlington, Vermont?

- Who is especially vulnerable to Internet Health issues in Burlington?

- What resources currently exist that help bridge the digital divide for people in Burlington?

- What resources do we still need to bridge the digital divide in Burlington?

- What data do we need to inform how we increase Digital Inclusion in Burlington?

- What other questions do we need to ask to take action toward a healthy Internet in Burlington?

What is The Digital Divide?
What is Digital Inclusion?

"Digital divide" is a term that refers to inequalities in the access that people have to information technology and Internet resources.

"Digital Inclusion" is a framework for assessing and considering the readiness of communities to provide access to opportunities in a digital age.

"Digital Inclusion" is a framework for assessing and considering the readiness of communities to provide access to opportunities in a digital age.

- **Access:** Availability, affordability, design for inclusion, and public access.
- **Adoption:** Relevance, digital literacy, and consumer safety.
- **Application:** Economic and workforce development, education, health care, public safety and emergency services, civic engagement, and social connections.

"Digital technology has opened new domains of exclusion and privilege for some, leaving some populations isolated from the vast digital realm. Even equitable access, however, is no longer enough - increasingly, digital life requires that users be more than users. Users are now content creators as much as they are content" [Digital Inclusion Survey](#), ALA

"it is not just simply enough to have those opportunities out there on the open internet, but we have to think about how we can really engage a diverse set of young people in their interests, in their capacities and communities."

Mimi Ito, Connected Learning Research Network

What data do we have about Internet Usage in VT?

"Data lets us drill down into how different kinds of sub groups from different backgrounds have different learning opportunities with the same freely available tools." - Justin Reich

[2017 Broadband availability](#) - Download Speed (mbps)/ Upload speed (mbps)

County	Town	Total Buildings	Served 100/100 or Better	Percent Served 100/100 or Better	Served 25/3 or Better	Percent Served 25/3 or Better	Served 4/1 or Better	Percent Served 4/1 or Better
			Served locations are affirmatively reported as served by specific providers					
CHITTENDEN	Bolton	510	164	32.2%	256	50.2%	504	98.8%
CHITTENDEN	Buels Gore	15	14	93.3%	14	93.3%	15	100.0%
CHITTENDEN	Burlington	11,528	10,596	91.9%	11499	99.7%	11,505	99.8%
CHITTENDEN	Charlotte	2,108	104	4.9%	1319	62.6%	2,061	97.8%
CHITTENDEN	Colchester	6,367	0	0.0%	6152	96.6%	6,185	97.1%
CHITTENDEN	Essex	7,249	0	0.0%	7031	97.0%	7,136	98.4%
CHITTENDEN	Hinesburg	1,871	216	11.5%	1335	71.4%	1,832	97.9%
CHITTENDEN	Huntington	894	7	0.8%	624	69.8%	885	99.0%
CHITTENDEN	Jericho	1,963	0	0.0%	1785	90.9%	1,816	92.5%
CHITTENDEN	Milton	4,269	0	0.0%	3845	90.1%	4,058	95.1%
CHITTENDEN	Richmond	1,710	425	24.9%	1573	92.0%	1,709	99.9%
CHITTENDEN	Shelburne	3,182	0	0.0%	3041	95.6%	3,075	96.6%
CHITTENDEN	South Burlington	6,885	655	9.5%	6824	99.1%	6,829	99.2%
CHITTENDEN	St. George	318	0	0.0%	296	93.1%	316	99.4%
CHITTENDEN	Underhill	1,230	0	0.0%	932	75.8%	1,153	93.7%
CHITTENDEN	Westford	822	0	0.0%	720	87.6%	777	94.5%
CHITTENDEN	Williston	4,240	0	0.0%	4044	95.4%	4,137	97.6%
CHITTENDEN	Winooski	1,757	76	4.3%	1751	99.7%	1,757	100.0%

Center for Rural Studies at UVM Household internet Connection Report 2010

Table 1. Percent of Vermont households that have a computer, an Internet connection or a broadband connection by household income, 2010

Household Income	% with Computer	% with computer that have Internet	% of all households that have Internet	% of all households that have broadband
Less than $25,000	56.7	81.5	47.8	37.2
More than $25,000	90.0	96.4	88.5	75.8
$25,000 - $50,000	81.6	93.7	79.2	68.2
$50,000 - $75,000	90.6	94.7	85.6	72.1
$75,000 - $100,000	96.8	98.9	97.8	81.1
More than $100,000	98.7	100.0 (±5.0%)	100.0 (±5.0%)	89.6
Total Households Reporting Income	82.9	94.2	79.9	67.7

$N_{computer} = 560$, $N_{Internet1} = 451$, $N_{Internet2} = 538$, $N_{broadband} = 538$
Source: University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies, *Vermonter Poll*, 2010
Note: Results of 100% should be interpreted in light of a margin of error of ±5.0%.

[The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)](#) characterizes the state of Chittenden County's economy, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and identifies strategies and actions to maintain and grow it.
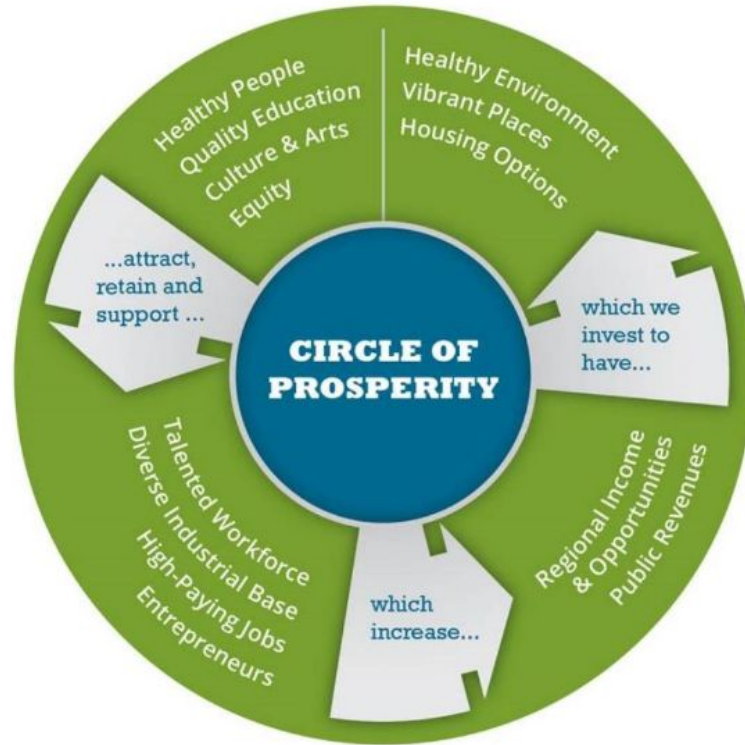
[The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)](#) characterizes the state of Chittenden County's economy, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; and identifies strategies and actions to maintain and grow it.

Opportunities:

- Engaging high skilled and trainable retirement age population
- Engaging and supporting growing New American population
- To promote telecommuting and remote workforce
- Increasing involvement of UVM, Champlain College, and St. Michaels in economic development
- Nurturing entrepreneurial environment and support systems
- Improving the quality of vocational and technical education programs
- Creating more dynamic economic development programs and services
- Promoting telecommuting and remote workforce based upon our regional assets

14 initial target clusters and industries for attraction and development efforts were identified and submitted to GBIC (Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation) for consideration:

Information Technology

Value Added/Sustainable Agriculture

Digital Media

E-Commerce

Clean Tech/Green Technology

Tourism

Retail

Non-profit Organizations

Health Care

Business and Administrative Services

Value-Added Manufacturing

Higher Education

Outdoor Recreation

Food systems

The ECOS Plan adoption in June, 2013 culminated efforts of over 60 organizations, working together - and defined a collective vision of a healthy, inclusive and prosperous Chittenden County. As we work collectively toward achieving our goals, this Scorecard will serve as a tool to help track our progress and guide our actions. Issues and Measurable Indicators for success: [Environment. Community. Opportunity. Sustainability (ECOS)](#)

Ensure adequate infrastructure and facilities (i.e. water supply, wastewater treatment, stormwater treatment, broadband coverage and solid waste recovery and recycling) to support areas planned for growth while conserving resources. Score (nothing about broadband)

Indicators				Time Period	Actual Value	Target Value	Current Trend	
⊕	I	ECOS	Drinking Water Capacity	Details..	—	—	—	—
⊕	I	ECOS	Waste Water Average Annual Flow (million/gallons/day)	Details..	2015	10.98 MGD	—	↗ 1
⊕	I	ECOS	Storm Water Management	Details..	2014	3,449acres	—	→ 0
⊕	I	ECOS	Pounds of Construction/ Debris Solid Waste Land-filled per Capita per Day	Details..	2016	0.55	—	↘ 3
⊕	I	ECOS	Pounds of Municipal Solid Waste Land-filled per Capita per Day	Details..	2016	3.05	—	↘ 1

[BTV Performance Dashboard](#) and Burlington [department of Innovation and Technology](#)

What are some examples of Digital Inclusion initiatives?

"In a world where information is easily available, strong personal networks and access to helpful people often matter more than access to the information itself."

Danah Boyd, It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens

- [Digital Inclusion at The Department of Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs](#) - Austin, Texas
- [E2D](#) - [Short Video](#) - Davidson, NC population
- [Open Austin](#) Austin, Texas
- [Boston internet for all](#) Boston, MA
- [Chi hack night](#) Chicago, Illinois
- [Pittsburgh R2Tech](#) Pittsburgh, PA
- [Code For BTV](#)
- [Common Good Vermont](#)
- Burlington Telecom [Edu-net](#) and [Lifeline](#)
- [Allied Media](#), Detroit MI

What do we want to do?

"Utilizing the internet can improve our lives in many ways, including our work, health, relationships, access to resources, and our day to day activities. Because of this, every resident should have an opportunity to be fully engaged in digital society, accessing and using digital and communications technology."

Austin, Texas office of telecommunications.

Do more research – Dive deep to see what the actual needs are. Who can help us get accurate data?

Identify existing resources - What would a one stop shop look like for DI in BTV? (Laptops to refurbish, partnerships, trainings, events, etc.)

Build alliance – Must have strong advocacy and buy-in and funding from the the Mayor, City Council, Schools, Social Agencies like BHA and CHT. Demonstrate the positive impact digital access enables. No single organization can solve the digital divide alone. What would our guiding principles of Digital Inclusion be?

Reach a targeted population like seniors, unemployed, low-income households, New Americans, public housing residents, veterans, etc. What changes do they want to see?

- Who can help us get the data we need to identify barriers to Digital Inclusion?
- How can we improve future meetings like this and what could we include to make them more beneficial?
- What is our BHAG for this movement? What is the change we want to see?

For more info contact:

Julia Vallera
Twitter
Linkedin