

Northeast
Minnesota Digital
Connection
Committees
06.27.23 | 1200 –
100PM



NORTHSPAN

WELCOMING
COMMUNITY



Zooming in



Agreements for an Effective Meeting Space



- Remain **on-camera** at all times (except breaks).



- Remain **available-to-be-on-mic**. You can mute while others are speaking/presenting, but be ready to participate.



- Avoid distractions: turn other devices to **airplane mode** and minimize open windows on your computer.



- Feel free to **raise your hand** - on camera or using [nonverbal tools](#) in Zoom.



- Use the phrase "**I'm complete...**" to indicate when you are done speaking.



- Be mindful of your "**airtime**." We will occasionally call on people to ensure your voice is heard or create breathing room in the discussion. Consider this an invitation, not an obligation!

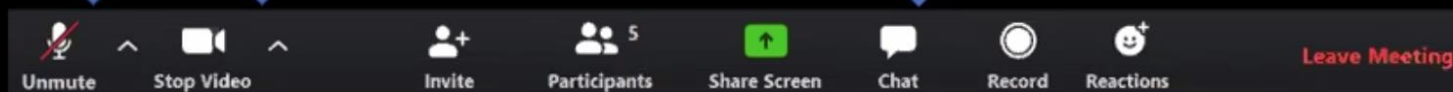
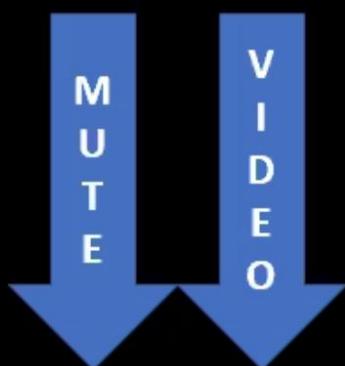


- Grab a **squeeze ball or fidget toy** to keep your hands occupied and avoid the urge to Always Be Clicking!



- Have grace with yourself and others. We're all figuring this out together!
How do you want to show up today? What's one intention you'd like to set for yourself?

As you enter into the virtual space, first, welcome!
Second, please open the chat pod and type in your name. We'll start the meeting with an introduction to some of the features in Zoom.



Participants (7)

- JK Jeremy Kautza (Co-host, me)
- AA Angie Asa-Lovstad (Host)
- IF Irina Fursman (Co-host)
- F Flower

yes no go slower go faster more

Mute All Unmute All

Zoom Group Chat

I'm also logged on through my phone too experience what it looks like

From Angie Asa-Lovstad to Everyone:
Let's populate the login question here and he screen shot it

From Irina Fursman to Everyone:
SURE!
TYPE YOUR NAME HERE

To: Everyone

Type message here...

Agenda

10 Minutes Welcome & Introductions

5 Minutes Survey Results

30 Minutes NE MN Digital Connection Committees & Input from Stakeholders

10 Minutes Reporting and Next Steps

5 Minutes Questions & Adjourn



Introductions

Introductions

Name?

Organization or another aspect of your identity you would like to share? (i.e. I am statement)

‘Where is the most unique/interesting place you have used the internet?’

Survey Results- Respondents

Aitkin County

- DCC- Aitkin County Government

Carlton County (Fond du Lac Ojibwe School, Mahtowa, Carlton County)

Cass County (City of Remer)

Cook County (Cook County Higher Ed)

- DCC-Wilderness Health

Itasca County (Itasca County Commisioner)

Koochiching County

- DCC-Koochi ching County

Lake County

- DCC-Wilderness Health

St.Louis County (North Star Township Board of Supervisors, Arrowhead Library System-Mt. Iron, Duluth Vocational Rehabilitation Services)

- DCC's Hibbing Library, Quad Cities Libraries, Town of White/Aurora, Biwabik Township, City of Duluth Digital Inclusion Alliance

Regional (Access North, 10 County Region)

Survey Results

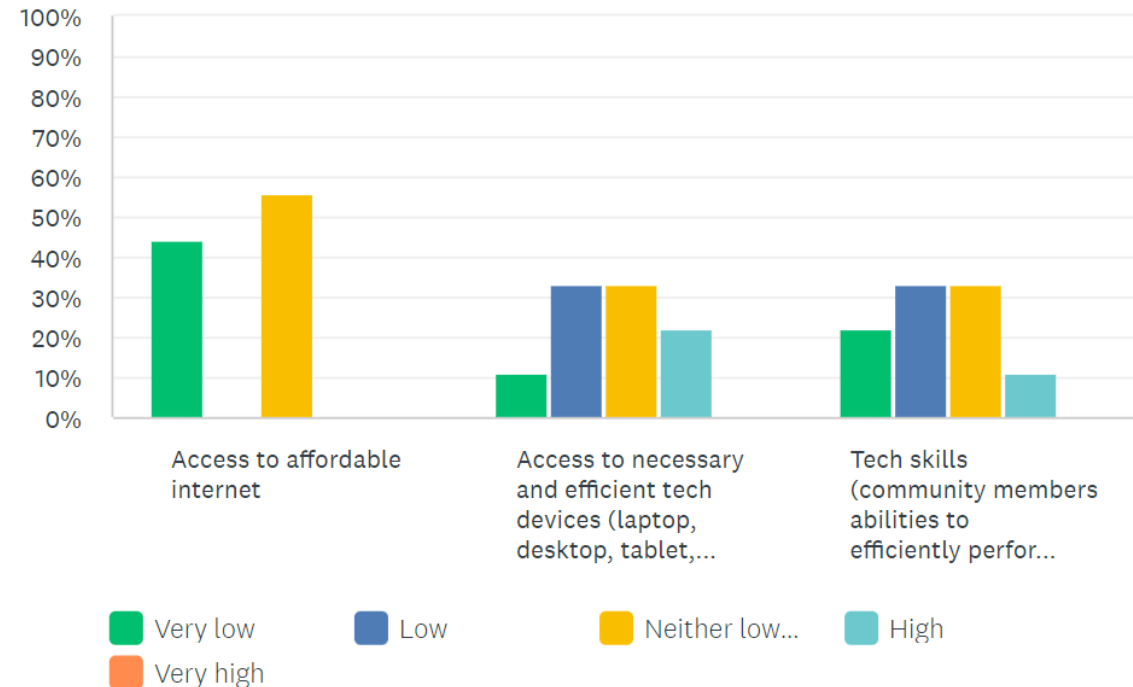
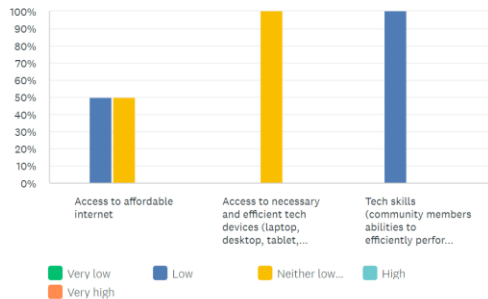
Rate the following aspects of digital inclusion in the community(s)/Tribal Nation(s) you are providing feedback for based on your experiences & perceptions?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Q4

Rate the following aspects of digital inclusion in your community(s)/Tribal Nation(s) based on the data you gathered:

Answered: 2 Skipped: 1



Survey



44% of respondents indicated Very low access to affordable internet.



100% of respondents categorized affordable internet access as either Very low or Neither low nor high.



78% of respondents indicated access to tech devices was either Low, Very low, or Neither low nor high.



89% of respondents indicated that tech skills were either Low, Very low, or Neither low nor high



100% of respondents indicated that internet access in terms of affordability/infrastructure or basic skills needed to fully participate in the digital world were lacking in their communities.

Themes

- **Continued Challenges with Access and Affordability**
 - No wired internet is available in North Star Township...the only options are ATT hotspots and Starlink satellite. ATT is slow and both are quite expensive
 - Many government programs for affordable internet require that you set up in store. People would have to drive 1+ hours to the nearest store to simply see if the internet is accessible in their area.
- **Digital Skills gaps for elder generation members and individuals with disabilities**
 - Access to basic computer skills training
 - Access to adaptative equipment
 - Many retired folks that have never used a computer at all.
 - Generally, the 65+ Hibbing population struggles with the continual changes in technology and how to stay competent. As they say, there is no IT Department for retirees

Themes

- **ACP Program Challenges**
 - Few providers that work with the ACP program have unlimited data usage. This requires consumers to choose between their kid doing homework and them attending their telehealth appointments.
 - Lack of standardized information and communication. Providers require that you use your Lifelink and ACP benefits on a smartphone with unlimited data, THEN you can pay an additional \$50 a month for their Wifi. But many consumers do not want that nor think that's fair.
- **Digital Skills gaps(esp. elder generation members and individuals with disabilities)**
 - Access to basic computer skills training
 - Access to adaptative equipment
 - Many retired folks that have never used a computer at all.
 - cyber security training is needed for residents
 - families are main source of technology assistance.

Comments



"THE MONEY, THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AS EARMARKED TO HELP FIX THIS PROBLEM IN GREATER MINNESOTA \$100, MILLION IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH. IT WOULD EASILY TAKE 25 MILLION TO JUST FINISH ITASCA COUNTY. MY COUNTY NEEDS HELP NOW SO THE CHILDREN AND THE ITASCA COUNTY ECONOMY HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED."



"ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED >25-100 MBPS INTERNET IS KEY TO DIGITAL INCLUSION...ONLY THEN CAN PEOPLE LEARN HOW TO USE IT TO ACCESS HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND SOCIAL CONNECTIVITY"



"CCHE'S REFURBISHED LAPTOP PROGRAM - CCHE PURCHASES LAPTOPS FOR \$225 AND SELLS THEM FOR \$50 - \$150 EACH. CCHE FINANCES MIGHT DICTATE ENDING THE UNDERWRITING."



THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (1996) IDENTIFIES OUR COMMUNITY LIBRAIRES AS DIGITAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL LITERACY CENTERS. CREATING INITIATIVES THAT OPTIMIZE LIBRAIRES AS IT DEPARTMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR ACCESS AND IT SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ESPECIALLY FOR POPULATIONS WITH LESS DIGITAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL LITERACY (RURAL POPULATIONS, 65+ POPULATION, BIPOC COMMUNITIES, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)



98% OF RESPONDENTS USE THE INTERNET 7 DAYS A WEEK (KOOCHICHING)

BEAD Funding Announced

- **Minnesota has been allocated \$651,839,368.20 for the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.**
- The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program provides \$42.45 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand highspeed Internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the country.

NE MN Digital Connection Committees & Input from Stakeholders

- Each committee will have 3-5 minutes to share

Northspan
Aitkin County Government
Biwabik Township
Duluth Digital Inclusion Alliance
Hibbing Public Library
Koochiching County
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Town of White/Aurora
Wilderness Health
Quad Cities Public Libraries

What are some key images, words, or conversations that stand out to you from the data?

What was surprising?

What was challenging?

How are you feeling at the end of this process?

What came through to you as very important?

Where do you hear a direction emerging in what has been reported by our communities?

What name would we put on that direction?

What do you feel is most important for us to emphasize to the state as a region?

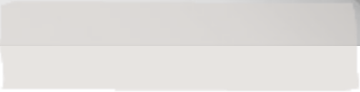
Comments from Additional Stakeholders



What do you feel is most important for us to emphasize to the state as a region?



Are there any key pieces of information or participation that we are missing in this process?



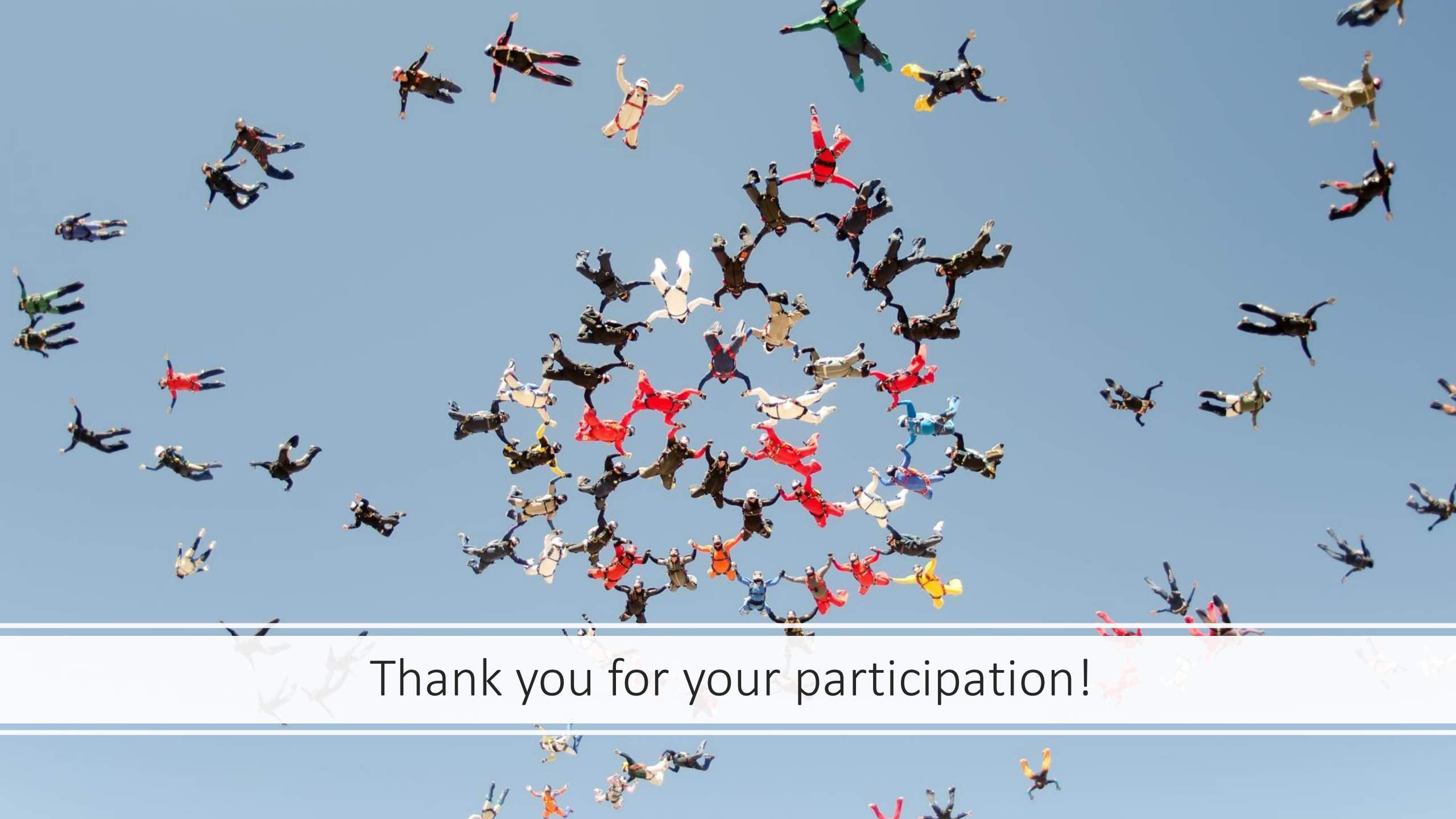
Reporting and Next Steps

- How are you feeling about the data and preparation to submit?
- Is there anywhere else you need additional support to complete a piece of this plan?
- Interest in a regional gathering in person in August to give feedback on the draft? In person, suggestions for where this could be?





Questions



Thank you for your participation!