

Digital Divide Initiatives

The Digital Divide Zone 1 Blitz Team would like to recommend the following initiatives to improve the utilization of technology and the Internet in Zone 1.

1. Encourage the Springfield Public School System to continue the 3-year technology initiative that will provide computer devices and for all students in grades 3-12 and to make available wireless hotspots for those students/families that don't have access at home. We also recommend that SPS consider extended hours for schools that may provide a venue for access to technology that would otherwise not be available to those families.
2. Recommend that the Springfield / Greene-County Library expands on the pilot project currently underway in which they are partnering with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to provide wireless hotspots to library card holders.
3. Encourage City Council to offer incentives to local businesses that provide publicly accessible Internet access and encourage local businesses and ISPs to partner with each other to make it affordable to do so and that the City continues to offer free Internet access in its public facilities.
4. Recommend that all local government agencies, schools and libraries help to develop and/or promote education programs and low cost Internet access opportunities that are already available in the community and that they also consider offering surplus computer equipment and low/no-cost for residents that qualify for other benefits such as the free & reduced lunch program through the schools.