

Regional Policy Advisory Committee

February 26, 2024

2 p.m.



Opening Agenda Items

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Item 2: Action on the Minutes from December 11, 2023

Update on the Save The Allegheny River (S.T.A.R.) Initiative

DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy

Agenda Item 3



Questions?



Updates on Recent Grant Awards and Forthcoming Grant Opportunities

DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Policy

Agenda Item: 4



Press Conference: SPIKE Funding



Press Conference: \$143M for the Busway & Parkway Bathtub





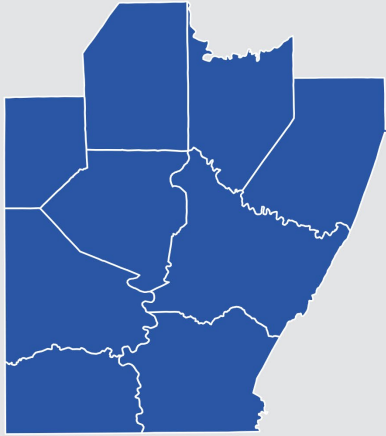


Briefing about the Regional Digital Navigator Program Model

*Beth Crow, Public Engagement Manager, and Meghan Rodgers, Senior Public Engagement Specialist
(Michael Baker)*

Agenda Item: 5





Regional Digital Navigator Program Model

Presented by
International

Michael Baker

February 26, 2024

Agenda

1

Southwestern Pennsylvania Connected Snapshot

2

Program Model Introduction and Overview

3

Information Assets

4

Resources and Reporting

5

Next Steps

Southwestern Pennsylvania Connected: Connectivity Roadmap



SPC Connectivity Roadmap



Roadmap Overview

Developed with Allies for Children, Metro21, Traffic21 at Carnegie Mellon University, and other stakeholders to create a universally available, accessible, and affordable broadband network for social and economic prosperity in the region

Roadmap Utility

The Connectivity Roadmap was designed to guide the ten counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania to develop connectivity projects and address regional needs

SPC Connectivity Roadmap

Digital Equity

- The roadmap prioritizes digital equity for equal access to information technology, which is critical for **full participation** in society and the economy.
- It identifies the disparities in broadband, computer, and **digital literacy access** in rural and urban areas and highlights the implications of these gaps on community participation and quality of life.
- These disparities underscore the urgent **need for targeted solutions**, paving the way for the Regional Digital Navigator Program Model.

What is a digital navigator?



Digital navigators are trusted guides who assist community members in internet adoption and the use of computing devices. Digital navigation services include ongoing assistance with affordable internet access, device acquisition, technical skills, and application support.

~National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)

Regional Digital Navigator Program Model



Key Features of the Digital Navigator Program Model

PURPOSE

- Bridge the digital divide in Southwestern Pennsylvania by improving digital literacy and empowering individuals and communities to utilize digital resources fully

SERVICES

- Framework for a digital navigator program
- Printable resources
- Asset mapping and partnership identification
- Curriculum resource library
- Evaluation and reporting system

IMPLEMENTATION

- Deploy across 10 counties using a collaborative approach involving volunteers and trained staff from local organizations
- The implementation will be tailored to meet each county's unique needs to ensure accessibility of program benefits to all residents

BENEFITS

- Assist in strategically creating and implementing digital navigator programs and empowering communities with digital literacy
- This will enhance access to essential online services such as education, healthcare, and employment opportunities



Information Assets

Asset Mapping

- Web mapping and dashboard tool accessible to the public

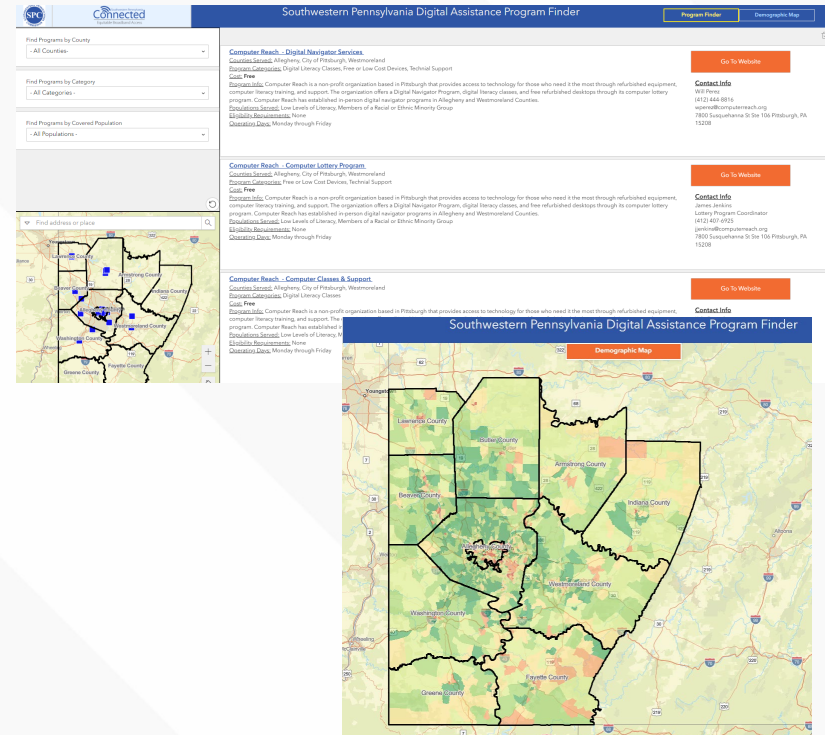
- [Demo](#)

- Two parts

- Digital Assistance Program Finder
 - Demographic Map

- Driven by the latest data

- Configurable and updateable



Curriculum Guide

- Catalog of existing programs and resources
- Contact information
- Segmented by skill level
- Includes courses
- Outlines course focus and skills
- Identifies course format



Partnership and Program Survey

- Understand interest
- Assess program experience
- Determine partnership opportunities
- Encourage information sharing
- Identify challenges and obstacles



Resources and Reporting



Marketing, Branding and Reporting

- Centralized marketing plan
- SPC branded
- Resource lists
- Editable templates
- Printable and online
- Evaluation and reporting templates



Next Steps



Next Steps

1

Survey distribution

2

Partner outreach

3

Collateral development



Questions?



Michael Baker
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

We Make a Difference

Questions?



Next Meeting Date

April 22, 2024

Agenda Item: 6



Adjourn

Agenda Item: 7

