



## City of Cleveland

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### **Closing the Digital Divide: Digital Adoption and Affordable Access**

This legislation would provide the authority to enter into an agreement with DigitalC. The fundamental terms of the agreement are in the attached term sheet, which is binding.

This initiative was originally conceived by City Council via an ARPA ordinance that passed in 2021, under which an RFP was released in 2022. DigitalC was the high scorer in the RFP process.

As a result of the agreement, DigitalC will ensure that all Cleveland households have access to internet service for \$18/month at speeds of 100 mbps download and 100 mbps upload (100/100 mbps). These speeds are above the federal standard definition of “broadband” (25/3 mbps) and meet the standard imposed by ARPA (100/100 mbps).

DigitalC will also provide digital adoption and training services through a consortium of community partners; a “navigator” program that provides direct assistance (training and devices); and an “ambassador” program that canvases door-to-door.

Funds for this contract will only be provided to DigitalC based on initial costs and then a series of benchmarks based on the pace of infrastructure deployment, the number of new household subscribers who did not subscribe to the internet before, and the number of residents reached through the digital adoption and training services, as well as the quality of the internet service.

**Legislative Funding Request: \$20,000,000**