



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

FROM: Jesse Rodriguez, Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs

DATE: December 11, 2019

SUBJECT: Update to the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission on the GTOPs 2020 Process

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The purpose of this memorandum is to offer an update on the GTOPs 2020 process thus far, through the submission of applications for GTOPs Core and Collaborative, as well as to offer information on the first GTOPs Capacity application deadline.

### **Background**

The process to create this strategy began on March 20, 2014 when the City Council adopted Resolution No. 20140320-056 that calls for the development of a Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan to address access and adoption of digital technology within Austin. City staff immediately began developing this strategic plan with the Austin Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission who convened a Steering Committee to establish action priorities. The City of Austin's 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategy is a dynamic plan to utilize community assets to overcome barriers and ensure all residents have access to the skills and devices necessary to engage in our digital society.

### **Current Status**

#### *GTOPs Core and Collaborative*

- The TARA office received a total of 21 applications, 16 for Core and 5 for Collaborative. We have funding allocated for 1 Collaborative application and 14 full awards of Core
- A total of \$639,108 was requested in funding, an increase from \$602,871 last cycle.
- A total of 19 organizations submitted final applications, down from 27 last cycle.
  - 3 formally withdrew during the final application
  - 2 organization approved at the LOI stage did not complete their application
  - 2 others dropped out in the LOI stage due to non-submission or withdrawal
- 7 applying organizations have never received GTOPs funding while 14 are previous awardees
- 3 organizations applied under the Creative Media focus area, none under the Mid-Skill Tech focus area
- The TARA Office is tracking what difficulties organizations are experiencing in the new application process and will use this information to improve future application cycles
- GTOPs reviewers are set to be oriented on December 12.

### *GTOPs Capacity*

- Please spread the word about GTOPs Capacity. The deadline to be considered for the first cohort of awards is December 31.
- Organizations can apply for up to \$2,500 to build the capacity of their digital inclusion efforts (including staff training and purchase of devices and equipment)
- A full guide to GTOPs Capacity can be found at [http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Telecommunications/DigitalInclusion/GTOPs\\_Capacity\\_Guide.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Telecommunications/DigitalInclusion/GTOPs_Capacity_Guide.pdf)
- Organizations can apply for funding at <https://airtable.com/shr2KkUxXgbcjxqjT>.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

cc: John Speirs, Program Manager