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Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Herzog, Herryyn <Herryyn.Herzog@vermont.gov>
Subject: Public Input Needed

Hello,

We at Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) know how important it is for your residents to have a dependable internet connection they can afford and devices to access the internet that they know how to use. We're kicking off a new effort to gather comments on our Digital Equity Plan. Hearing about the challenges and barriers people are facing getting online and/or using the internet will help us address those issues in our plan to help Vermonters overcome them. There are many opportunities to give feedback, including virtual listening sessions coming up this Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. (link to join <https://bit.ly/3u5qjwA>) and Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 (link to join <https://bit.ly/47A8nIR>).

We are also holding focus groups over the next couple weeks for each "covered population" from the Digital Equity Act. The schedule is:

- Monday, Dec. 4 at 6:00 pm - Vermonters who identify as people with disabilities and Vermonters who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, LateDeafened, DeafBlind, and DeafDisabled. Virtual.
- Thursday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 pm - Adult learners. Bradford Public Library, 21 South Main Street, Bradford.
- Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 pm - Vermonters who identify as being in a low-income household. Virtual.
- Monday, Dec. 11 at 6:00 pm – Veterans. Location TBD.
- Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 5:30 pm – Rural and/or Vermonters who identify as being in a low-income household. Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 11:30 am – Aging Vermonters (60+). Location TBD.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 pm – Individuals with a language barrier, including those who are English learners or have low literacy levels. Virtual.

Sign-up is required for participation in the focus groups (but not the listening sessions). You can sign up with this [form](#).

People can also fill out our [Request for Input](#), email us at vcbb.info@vermont.gov, write to us at VCBB, 112 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620, or call us (800) 622-4496.

The public comment period on Vermont's draft Digital Equity Plan opens this Friday, Dec. 1. It will be linked on the Digital Equity page of our website, [Digital Equity | Department of Public Service \(vermont.gov\)](#).

Please share this information with your networks, including Front Porch Forum if possible. Don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions and thank you for helping make Vermont's Digital Equity Plan one that will work for all Vermonters.

Best,
Herryyn Herzog
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