

RVBAT Meeting - September 04

Meeting Purpose

RVBAT (Rogue Valley Broadband Access Team) meeting to discuss broadband connectivity and digital literacy resources

Key Links

- RVBAT website: <https://rvcog.org/rvbat/>
- OBEC website: <https://oregonbroadbandequity.org/>
- NDIA Digital Inclusion Week October 7 – 11, 2024: <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/digital-inclusion-week-2024/>

Topics

JCLS NTIA Grant Application

- Broadband USA Digital Equity Collaborative Grant proposal (with State of Oregon, City of Portland, and other agencies within the state) includes work around digital literacy, JCLS's DART van, new PCs for computer classroom, group classes and one-on-one instruction. They have added a bilingual digital services specialist emphasizing on digital equity.
- Would like to get bus wraps for RVTD to promote digital literacy and resources and education through the library. There are pockets of the community that are not being reached, not seeing the flyers.
- There is hope that the big group collaboration grant is successful. Would also allow for work with RVBAT members to create robust digital literacy classes over the next 4 years, to include intermediate and advanced classes.
- DART van would get new laptops and funding for Starlink broadband service.
- JCLS is also in the early stages of reaching out to Asante to support telehealth appointments. Just trying to setup meetings. Would start a pilot in urban areas, then expand to rural areas if successful.
- 300 hotspots are available to be deployed in the community. E-rate may cover subscriptions – currently exploring using this to further expand services.

Josephine Community Library

- Currently offering digital literacy courses in English and Spanish, including at the Illinois Valley branch.

Low-Cost Internet Plan Information

- NDIA link: <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/low-cost-internet-plans/>

Next Steps

- Concern and focus on connecting with/considering underserved populations – Spanish speakers, rural, etc. Leverage DE grant funding to further digital literacy, telehealth support.
- Support for AI education is under development
- SOESD event under development for October 11th, teacher in-service day

Action Items

- Email Ann Marie information on digital literacy resources
- Send flyers to Ann Marie to promote computer literacy classes to seniors through RVCOG resources (senior meal sites)