RVBAT Meeting - October 02

Meeting Purpose

Discuss updates on digital inclusion initiatives and broadband projects in Southern Oregon.

Key Takeaways

- Digital Inclusion Week (Oct 7-11) events: SOESD hosting summit on Oct 11th
- Jackson County Library submitted collaborative grant for digital equity projects
- Multiple organizations offering computer basics classes and digital literacy programs
- T-Mobile expanding Project 10 Million for student connectivity; new emergency alert via satellite capability

Topics

RV BAT Website Updates

- Links added to RVCOG RVBAT page including OBEC website, Digital Inclusion Week
- Suggestions to add:
    - Section for online training resources
    - Digital navigator contact information
    - National resources like Senior Planet from AARP

Digital Inclusion Week Events

- SOESD hosting summit on Oct 11th in Medford
    - Free for school district members, $50 for others
    - Speakers include Victor (regular RV BAT member)
    - Focus on equity aspects related to broadband

Grant Updates

- Jackson County Library submitted collaborative Digital Equity grant
    - Aims to expand DART program, continue Starlink for mobile connectivity
    - Upgrade classroom PCs, fund bilingual digital services specialist
    - Marketing initiatives to raise awareness of library resources

Organization Updates

- Josephine Community Library:
    - Computer basics class started Sept 13th with 7/10 slots filled
    - 50+ person waitlist; expanding to WorkSource locations

- o Spanish classes starting in November
- Ashland Senior Services:
  - o Collaborating with JCLS on tech basics classes
  - o Offering specialized topics like streaming music
  - o Challenge: motivating reluctant learners to engage with digital literacy
- Jackson County Library:
  - o Planning AI basics class for November to address fears/misconceptions
  - o Continuing digital legacy and cybersecurity classes
  - o New dedicated class on password management
  - o Spanish computer basics classes planned for late 2024/early 2025
- Hunter Communications:
  - o Awaiting ARPA grant announcement (expected by end of October)
  - o Exploring micro-trenching for faster residential builds
  - o Grant would target underserved Shady Cove/Trail/Prospect areas
- Greater Applegate:
  - o Successful fundraising week with electronic recycling drive
  - o Sponsoring Starlink program for Applegate Valley businesses
- T-Mobile:
  - o Expanded Project 10 Million data allowances for student hotspots
  - o "Friday Night 5G Lights" grant program for school stadiums
  - o First emergency alert via satellite connectivity implemented nationally

Education Initiatives

- SOESD discussing implications of Senate Bill 3 on tech skills education
- Developing curriculum for required class (graduating class of 2027)
- Seeking input on essential technical competencies for students

Next Steps

- Send website content suggestions to Ann Marie (online resources, digital navigator info)
- Share details of Digital Inclusion Week events with the group
- Follow up on collaborative grant results (Jackson County Library)
- Continue developing and promoting digital literacy programs
- Explore ways to motivate reluctant learners to engage with technology
- Consider participating in school district community outreach for Student Success Act planning

Action Items

- Update RVBAT website - add note re Ashland Sr Services classes - call for current offerings
- Compile & send list of national digital literacy resources to Ann Marie for RVBAT site
- Create separate section on RVBAT site for online training resources
- Add section on RVBAT site for digital navigator contacts