Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

200 E. Main St
Lexington, KY 40507

Docket

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

1:00 PM

Council Chamber

<u>Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee</u>

Committee Agenda

0258-26   Approval of February 24, 2026, Committee Summary

Attachments: 2-24-26 Meeting Summary

0259-26   Monthly Financial Update - February 2026

Attachments: Monthly Financial Update – February 2026

0260-26   Opioid Abatement Fund Update

Attachments: March Opioid Abatement Fund Update

0643-25   Digital Accessibility

Attachments: Digital Accessibility - March 2026

Lexington Digital Accessibility Plan Draft

0261-26   Review of Items Referred

Attachments: March - Items Referred

Adjournment

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

200 E. Main St
Lexington, KY 40507

Master

File Number: 0258-26

File ID: 0258-26	**Type:** Committee Item	**Status:** Agenda Ready
Version: 1	**Contract #:**	**In Control:** Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
		File Created: 03/20/2026
File Name: Approval of February 24, 2026, Committee Summary		**Final Action:**

Title: Approval of February 24, 2026, Committee Summary

Notes:

Sponsors:		**Enactment Date:**
Attachments: 2-24-26 Meeting Summary		**Enactment Number:**
Deed #:		**Hearing Date:**
Drafter:		**Effective Date:**

History of Legislative File

Ver-sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File 0258-26

Title
Approval of February 24, 2026, Committee Summary

Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
February 24, 2026
Summary and Motions

Chair James Brown called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Vice Mayor Dan Wu, and Committee Members Chuck Ellinger, Shayla Lynch, Liz Sheehan, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, Whitney Baxter, Dave Sevigny, and Jennifer Reynolds were in attendance as voting members. Council Members Tyler Morton, Tom Eblen, Emma Curtis, Amy Beasley and Hil Boone were in attendance as non-voting members.

I.   APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2026, COMMITTEE SUMMARY

A motion by Ellinger to approve January 27, 2026, Committee Summary, seconded by Wu, passed without dissent.

II.   MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2026

Commissioner Hensley and Director Holbrook presented the FY2026 February 2026 Financial Update. The January report provides a seven-month snapshot of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government revenues, expenditures, and cash flow compared with the adopted budget. Overall, the report indicates the City's finances remain generally in line with expectations, with most variances attributable to accounting adjustments or timing differences rather than structural budget issues.

Revenue variances were influenced by GASB-required accounting entries for subscription-based IT arrangements (SBITA) and leased services that were not included in the adopted budget. A forthcoming budget adjustment will reconcile these items. Excluding these entries, the adjusted revenue variance is approximately $2.92 million. Payroll-related revenues may also have been affected by workplace closures late in the month, which can shift the timing of collections.

Personnel expenditures remain within approximately 3% of budget despite January including three payroll cycles and employee sick leave buyback payments. Several operating variances reflect delayed or encumbered spending rather than overspending, including approximately $500,000 in road salt not yet used, $900,000 in detention center medical contract expenses not yet incurred, and more than $1 million in contracted software services. No action was taken.

III.   LEXARTS ARTS AND CULTURAL ECONOMY AUDIT

Ame Sweetall, CEO and Executive Director of LexArts, and Sound Diplomacy consultants, presented the LexArts Arts and Cultural Economy Audit. The audit evaluates the size, impact, and needs of Lexington's creative sector and identifies strategies to strengthen the arts ecosystem and its role in economic development. The study draws on economic data, surveys, interviews, and stakeholder roundtables to assess the sector and identify opportunities for growth.

The report finds the arts and cultural sector is a significant contributor to Lexington's economy, supporting thousands of jobs and generating substantial economic activity. The sector demonstrates strong specialization in areas such as cultural education, retail, and audiovisual and interactive media. Stakeholder feedback identified several structural challenges, including limited coordination and long-

term strategy, insufficient funding streams, infrastructure and accessibility issues at cultural venues, and transportation barriers affecting access to events. Participants also noted the need for clearer communication regarding the role of LexArts and greater transparency in funding and grant processes.

The audit recommends actions to strengthen governance, funding, and economic development connections. Key proposals include updating and publicly communicating LexArts' strategic plan, increasing cultural funding through mechanisms such as the hotel tax, integrating arts into Lexington's broader economic development strategy, and recruiting creative businesses and talent to fill gaps in the local arts ecosystem. The report positions the arts as both cultural assets and drivers of economic growth, workforce development, and community identity. No action was taken.

IV.   VISITLEX TOURISM IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
VisitLEX presented a proposal to establish a Tourism Improvement District (TID), or Lodging Management District, to strengthen tourism marketing, attract major events, and increase overnight visitation. Tourism currently supports 11,851 jobs in Fayette County, generates approximately $1.7 billion in visitor spending, and produces $131 million in state and local tax revenue.

The proposal notes that Lexington's tourism promotion resources are relatively limited compared with peer destinations. Budget comparisons show that cities such as Nashville, Savannah, and Memphis operate with significantly larger destination marketing organization (DMO) budgets, often supplemented by Tourism Improvement District funding. Establishing a TID would provide an additional funding source to expand marketing, event recruitment, and destination development efforts to enhance Lexington's competitiveness.

Under the proposed model, qualifying lodging properties would pay a 2% assessment on gross short-term room revenue. Funds would be collected by the City and managed by a district board of directors composed primarily of property owners to ensure revenues are used specifically for tourism promotion and related economic improvements. The district would operate for seven years with an estimated annual budget of approximately $2.1 million to support marketing, destination development, special events, and administration.

The presentation also outlined the legal framework and timeline for establishing the district under Kentucky law. Formation requires a petition supported by at least 33% of property owners representing 51% of the assessed property value within the proposed district. If those thresholds are met, the proposal would proceed through ordinance readings, public notice, and a public hearing prior to final approval. Upon adoption, a board of directors would be appointed, and assessments could begin shortly thereafter. No action was taken.

V.   REVIEW OF COMMITTEE REFERRALS
A motion by Wu to remove the LexArts Finance and Equity Review from the items referred list, seconded by Ellinger, passed without dissent.

VI.   ADJOURNMENT
A motion by Chair Brown to adjourn at 2:51p.m., seconded by Ellinger, passed without dissent.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

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File Number: 0259-26

File ID: 0259-26	**Type:** Committee Item	**Status:** Agenda Ready
Version: 1	**Contract #:**	**In Control:** Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
		File Created: 03/20/2026
File Name: Monthly Financial Update – February 2026		**Final Action:**

Title: Monthly Financial Update - February 2026

Notes:

Sponsors:	**Enactment Date:**
Attachments: Monthly Financial Update – February 2026	**Enactment Number:**
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History of Legislative File

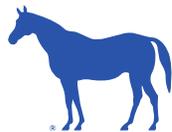| Ver-sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File 0259-26

Title
Monthly Financial Update - February 2026

FY2026 MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Urban County Council
Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
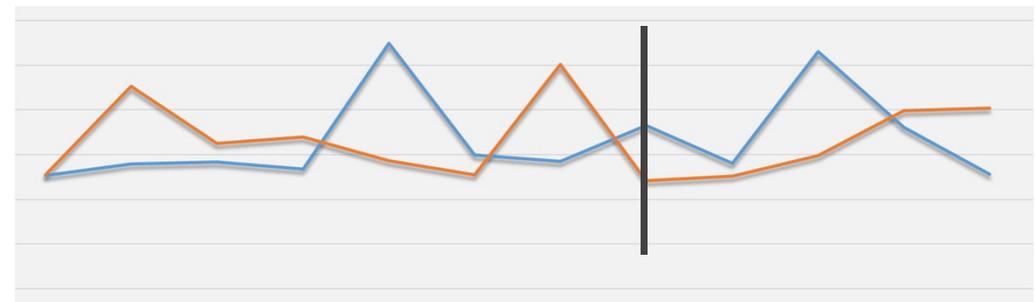March 24, 2026

LEXINGTON

8 Month Performance Review (Actuals)

FEBRUARY FY26	
Revenues	$348,262,449
Expenses	($341,966,419)
Transfers	($4,565,582)
One-Year Surplus/(Deficit)	**$1,730,448**

Factors to Consider

o After strong performance through the first half of the year, Payroll Withholding has fallen behind budget and is currently only outperforming FY25 by 1.8%. The budget team will continue to monitor to assess current and future year impacts.

o The Division of Revenue launched an online filing portal for Net Profit forms which should create efficiencies in filing and processing. However, process changes may also create some timing differences when comparing fiscal years.

o The Personnel variance is holding steady within 3% of budget.

o Operating variances continue to run high and have been analyzed for efficiencies in future budgets. Snow and ice expenditures have not yet been fully realized and are expected to impact current variances.

o More than $16 million in budgeted Operating dollars are currently obligated through open POs and contracts. It is expected that much of this amount will be expended prior to the close of the year.

FY26 Eight Month Actual Performance

	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Revenues	$35.M	$36.1M	$42.7M	$39.3M	$64.5M	$44.25M	$40.81M	$45.63M
Exp/Xfers	$31.1M	$57.2M	$43.8M	$41.1M	$38.6M	$34.67M	$67.51M	$32.49M

FY26 Adopted Budget Overview – Monthly Revenues vs Expenses

2026 Fiscal Year – Cash Flow Variance Revenue (Actual to Budget)

For the eight months ended February 28, 2026				
	Actuals	Budget	Variance	% Var
Revenue				
Payroll Withholding	191,293,613	193,500,000	(2,206,387)	-1.1%
Net Profit	29,943,690	27,500,000	2,443,690	8.9%
Insurance	36,195,222	36,750,000	(554,778)	-1.5%
Franchise Fees	20,395,696	19,250,000	1,145,696	6.0%
Other Licenses & Permits	5,579,778	5,100,111	479,667	9.4%
Property Tax Accounts	31,543,700	31,807,000	(263,300)	-0.8%
Services	19,530,066	18,812,322	717,744	3.8%
Fines and Forfeitures	167,800	87,333	80,467	92.1%
Intergovernmental Revenue	741,973	561,003	180,970	32.3%
Property Sales	210,479	100,000	110,479	110.5%
Investment Income	155,821	241,807	(85,986)	-35.6%
Other Financing Sources	9,080,313	9,080,313	(0)	-0.0%
Other Income	3,424,298	3,503,763	(79,465)	-2.3%
Total Revenues	**$348,262,449**	**$346,293,653**	**$1,968,796**	**0.6%**

2026 Fiscal Year – Cash Flow Variance Revenue (CY to PY)

For the eight months ended February 28, 2026				
	FY 2026	FY 2025	Variance	% Var
Revenue				
Payroll Withholding	191,293,613	187,983,351	3,310,262	1.8%
Net Profit	29,943,690	25,645,004	4,298,686	16.8%
Insurance	36,195,222	34,511,527	1,683,695	4.9%
Franchise Fees	20,395,696	18,327,662	2,068,034	11.3%
Other Licenses & Permits	5,579,778	5,478,139	101,639	1.9%
Property Tax Accounts	31,543,700	30,110,446	1,433,254	4.8%
Services	19,530,066	17,863,498	1,666,568	9.3%
Fines and Forfeitures	167,800	42,065	125,735	298.9%
Intergovernmental Revenue	741,973	627,975	113,998	18.2%
Property Sales	210,479	215,070	(4,591)	-2.1%
Investment Income	155,821	328,943	(173,122)	-52.6%
Other Financing Sources	9,080,313	1,540,125	7,540,188	489.6%
Other Income	3,424,298	3,698,948	(274,650)	-7.4%
Total Revenues	$348,262,449	$326,372,753	$21,889,696	6.7%

2026 Fiscal Year – Cash Flow Variance Expense (Actual to Budget)

For the eight months ended February 28, 2026			
	Actuals	Budget	Variance	% Var
Expense			
Personnel	215,241,340	221,692,794	6,451,454	2.9%
Operating	48,075,094	62,878,679	14,803,585	23.5%
Insurance Expense	2,562,074	2,279,675	(282,399)	-12.4%
Debt Service	44,644,338	45,718,938	1,074,600	2.4%
Partner Agencies	22,151,976	23,043,557	891,581	3.9%
Capital	9,291,597	9,187,133	(104,464)	-1.1%
Total Expenses	$341,966,419	$364,800,776	$22,834,357	6.3%
Transfers	4,565,582	7,448,891	2,883,309	38.7%
Change in Fund Balance	$1,730,448	($25,956,014)	$27,686,462	

2026 Fiscal Year – Cash Flow Variance Expense (CY to PY)

| For the eight months ended February 28, 2026				
	FY 2026	FY 2025	Variance	% Var
Expense				
Personnel	215,241,340	205,756,923	9,484,417	4.6%
Operating	48,075,094	45,234,891	2,840,203	6.3%
Insurance Expense	2,562,074	2,063,242	498,832	24.2%
Debt Service	44,644,338	44,293,115	351,223	0.8%
Partner Agencies	22,151,976	18,477,370	3,674,606	19.9%
Capital	9,291,597	2,986,631	6,304,966	211.1%
Total Expenses	$341,966,419	$318,812,172	$23,154,247	7.3%
Transfers	4,565,582	26,612,926	(22,047,344)	-82.8%
Change in Fund Balance	$1,730,448	($19,052,345)	$20,782,793	

Questions?

LEXINGTON

ARPA FINANCIAL UPDATE

Approved Budget and Actual Expenditures

Through February 28, 2026
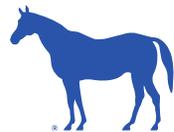
LEXINGTON

ARPA DASHBOARD
as of February 28, 2026
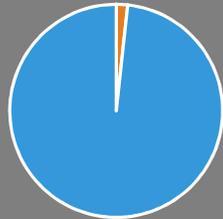
□ Unobligated ■ Obligated ■ Expended

Total ARPA Obligated
$121.2 Million
100%
✓✓✓ December 31, 2024 Deadline ✓✓✓

Total ARPA Expended
$119.3 Million
98%
December 31, 2026 Deadline
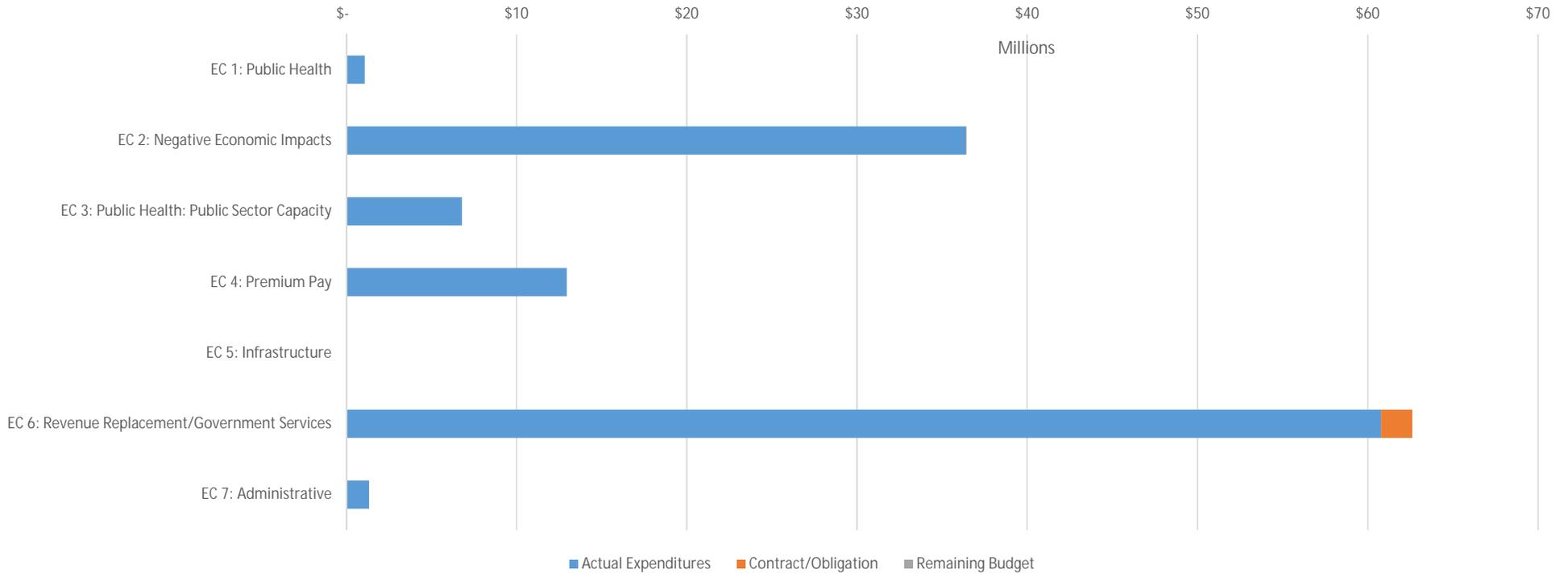
Projects Complete 81
Projects Underway 5

Funding Overview by ARPA Expenditure Category
Total Grant Budget

1. Public Health — $ 1,084,388
- Eligible projects include services and programs to contain and mitigate COVID-19 spread and services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic.

2. Negative Economic Impacts — $ 36,404,308
- Eligible projects include those that address the negative impacts caused by the public health emergency including assistance to workers; small business support; speeding the recovery of tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors; and rebuilding public sector and non-profit capacity. This category also includes programs and projects that support long-term housing security and promote strong, healthy communities.

3. Economic Impact: Public Sector/Health Capacity — $ 6,791,327
- Eligible projects include expenses for payroll, rehiring, enhanced service delivery, and administrative needs for public sector health, safety, or human services workers.

4. Premium Pay — $12,954,007
- ARPA funding provides resources to local government to recognize the heroic contributions of essential workers. Eligible workers include a broad range of essential workers who must be physically present at their job.

5. Infrastructure — $ -
- Eligible projects include necessary improvements in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

6. Revenue Replacement for General Government — $ 62,614,351
- Local governments facing budget shortfalls are permitted to use funding to replace lost revenue for the purpose of providing governmental services. These services may include recreation, transportation, economic development, and other general government services.

7. Administration — $ 1,329,677
- Local governments are permitted to use funding for administering ARPA funds, including costs of in-house staff or consultants to support effective oversight and ensuring compliance with legal, regulatory, and other requirements. A project contingency is also held in this Expenditure Category. Less than 1.2% of all ARPA funds received were used for administration.

Please see ARPA Revenue and Expense Report for details

ARPA Budget, Expenditures, and Obligations by Category
as of February 28, 2026

Categories (top to bottom):
- EC 1: Public Health
- EC 2: Negative Economic Impacts
- EC 3: Public Health: Public Sector Capacity
- EC 4: Premium Pay
- EC 5: Infrastructure
- EC 6: Revenue Replacement/Government Services
- EC 7: Administrative

Legend: ■ Actual Expenditures ■ Contract/Obligation ■ Remaining Budget

X-axis (Millions): $- , $10, $20, $30, $40, $50, $60, $70

TOTAL EXPENDITURES THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2026
$119,332,489

ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Revenue and Expense Report

For the period through February 28, 2026			Actuals		Budget		Variance	
Revenue								
LFUCG Allocation			$	121,178,058	$	121,178,058	$	-
Total Revenues			**$**	**121,178,058**	**$**	**121,178,058**	**$**	**-**

			Actuals		Budget		Variance	
Expense								
EC 1: Public Health			$	1,084,388.39	$	1,084,388.39	$	-
1.05	Personal Protective Equipment	Personal Protective Equipment for LFUCG	$	5,762.59	$	5,762.59	$	-
1.11	Community Violence Interventions	Safety Net Program - Project Peace (Lexington Rescue Mission)	$	306,558.80	$	306,558.80	$	-
1.11	Community Violence Interventions	It Takes a Village - Mentoring Program (Personnel)	$	262,067.00	$	262,067.00	$	-
1.12	Mental Health Services	NAMI - Mental Health Court Funding (FY22)	$	170,000.00	$	170,000.00	$	-
1.12	Mental Health Services	NAMI - Mental Health Court Funding (FY23)	$	170,000.00	$	170,000.00	$	-
1.12	Mental Health Services	NAMI - Mental Health Court Funding (FY24)	$	170,000.00	$	170,000.00	$	-

All ARPA SLFRF funds have been obligated as of December 31, 2024, as required by the program guidelines.
This report will now reflect actual expenditures compared to project budgets for all ARPA projects as we move towards the December 31, 2026, expenditure deadline.

ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Revenue and Expense Report

Expense							
EC 2: Negative Economic Impacts			$	36,402,490.67	$	36,404,308.40	$	1,817.73
2.02	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	Emergency Financial Assistance for Residents (FY22)	$	240,846.00	$	240,846.00	$	-
2.02	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	Emergency Financial Assistance for Residents (FY23)	$	251,776.00	$	251,776.00	$	-
2.02	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	Emergency Financial Assistance for Residents (FY24)	$	297,365.00	$	297,365.00	$	-
2.02	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	Recovery Supportive Living Assistance (FY22)	$	200,000.00	$	200,000.00	$	-
2.02	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	Recovery Supportive Living Assistance (FY23)	$	199,999.76	$	199,999.76	$	-
2.10	Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers	Summer Youth Work Readiness Program	$	960,000.00	$	960,000.00	$	-
2.15	Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	Shropshire Affordable Housing Project Site Improvements	$	750,000.00	$	750,000.00	$	-
2.15	Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing	$	10,000,000.00	$	10,000,000.00	$	-
2.15	Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing - Additional Allocation	$	3,125,000.00	$	3,125,000.00	$	-
2.15	Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	Affordable Housing - Additional Allocation - FY24	$	4,001,790.00	$	4,001,790.00	$	-
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	OHPI Homelessness Allocation (FY22)	$	642,893.42	$	642,893.42	$	-
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	OHPI Homelessness Allocation (FY23)	$	822,946.27	$	824,764.00	$	1,817.73
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	OHPI Homelessness Allocation (FY24)	$	750,000.00	$	750,000.00	$	-
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	Homelessness Contracts via Department of Housing and Community Dev	$	3,717,025.18	$	3,717,025.18	$	-
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	Homelessness Contracts - Non-Shelter Eligible Families/Individuals	$	159,827.97	$	159,827.97	$	-
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	COVID-19 Alternate Shelter for Winter Warming - 2022/2023	$	1,315,761.75	$	1,315,761.75	$	-
2.12	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	COVID-19 Alternate Shelter for Winter Warming - 2023/2024	$	1,072,000.00	$	1,072,000.00	$	-
2.16	Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons	Domestic Violence Sheltering: Greenhouse 17	$	400,000.00	$	400,000.00	$	-
2.22	Strong Healthy Communities: Promote Health and Safety	Village Branch Library Construction	$	1,000,000.00	$	1,000,000.00	$	-
2.22	Strong Healthy Communities: Promote Health and Safety	Black and Williams Center Improvements - Gymnasium	$	1,848,759.32	$	1,848,759.32	$	-
2.22	Strong Healthy Communities: Promote Health and Safety	BCTC Dental Hygiene Clinic	$	2,000,000.00	$	2,000,000.00	$	-
2.30	Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning	Minority Business Accelerator II - Reflect Lex	$	991,000.00	$	991,000.00	$	-
2.34	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations	Explorium of Lexington - Children's Museum Assistance	$	125,000.00	$	125,000.00	$	-
2.34	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations	LexArts Nonprofit Services Contract (FY22)	$	325,000.00	$	325,000.00	$	-
2.34	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations	Lyric Theater Assistance	$	127,500.00	$	127,500.00	$	-
2.34	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations	Radio Lex	$	78,000.00	$	78,000.00	$	-
2.35	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	Visit LEX/Hospitality Industry Recovery	$	1,000,000.00	$	1,000,000.00	$	-

ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Revenue and Expense Report

Expense					
EC 3: Public Health - Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity		$ 6,791,326.62	$ 6,791,326.62	$ -	
3.01	Public Sector Workforce	Social Services Department Personnel Expenses (FY23 and FY24)	$ 6,000,000.00	$ 6,000,000.00	$ -
3.01	Public Sector Workforce	Social Services Department Personnel Expenses (FY25)	$ 791,326.62	$ 791,326.62	$ -
EC 4: Premium Pay		$ 12,954,006.73	$ 12,954,006.73	$ -	
4.01	Premium Pay	Premium Pay for High Exposure LFUCG Staff	$ 12,592,083.66	$ 12,592,083.66	$ -
4.01	Premium Pay	Premium Pay for Fayette County Sheriff's Office	$ 361,923.07	$ 361,923.07	$ -
EC 6: Revenue Replacement/Government Services		$ 60,770,599.85	$ 62,614,350.64	$ 1,843,750.79	
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Economic Development Grants to Service Partners	$ 298,744.60	$ 298,744.60	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Berry Hill Park - Basketball Court	$ 175,000.00	$ 175,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts Buckhorn Park - Phase II Improvements	$ 44,999.15	$ 44,999.15	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Dogwood Park - Basketball Court	$ 69,073.42	$ 69,073.42	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Gardenside Park - Playground	$ 148,745.57	$ 148,745.57	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Ecton Park Restrooms and Concessions	$ 457,400.00	$ 457,400.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Lakeside Irrigation Replacement	$ 1,442,000.00	$ 1,442,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Masterson Station Park - Playground	$ 147,478.33	$ 147,478.33	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Meadowthorpe Park - Roof Repair	$ 78,585.03	$ 78,585.03	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Raven Run Park - Prather House Roof Repair	$ 154,998.00	$ 154,998.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Shilito Park - Access Imprvmnt Parking Lot Con	$ 297,206.20	$ 297,206.20	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Southland Park - Access Imprvmnt Parking Rep	$ 202,793.80	$ 202,793.80	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprvmnts - Woodland Park - Restroom Facilities	$ 527,912.99	$ 527,912.99	$ -

ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Revenue and Expense Report

Expense							
EC 6: Revenue Replacement/Government Services			$	60,770,599.85	$	62,614,350.64	$	1,843,750.79
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Nbhood Rec Imprrvmtns - Mary Todd Park - Basketball Court	$	97,441.81	$	97,441.81	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Access to Quality Green Space for Disadvantaged Pop - ADA Imprvmnts a	$	125,000.00	$	125,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Cardinal Run North Park Development	$	8,782,252.02	$	10,418,886.66	$	1,636,634.64
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Access to Quality Green Space in QCT - Northeastern Park - Playground	$	250,000.00	$	250,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Access to Quality Green Space in QCT - Phoenix Park - Inclusive Use and	$	150,000.00	$	150,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Access to Quality Green Space in QCT - Pine Meadows Park - Playgroun	$	153,404.40	$	153,404.40	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Access to Quality Green Space in QCT - River Hill Park - Sports Courts	$	190,876.05	$	190,876.05	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	General Neighborhood Parks and Recreation Improvements	$	3,954,465.47	$	3,954,465.47	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Parks Master Plan - QCT Areas	$	4,187,569.00	$	4,187,569.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Parks Master Plan - Maintenance	$	1,104,582.26	$	1,104,582.26	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Parks Master Plan - Aquatics	$	6,998,217.41	$	7,027,717.41	$	29,500.00
6.01	Provision of Government Services	ADA Transition Plan	$	200,000.00	$	200,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Pam Miller Downtown Arts Center Renovation	$	2,675,000.00	$	2,675,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Government Employee Pay Supplements	$	4,436,928.18	$	4,436,928.18	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Critical Government Needs - Broadband Study with Scott County	$	19,571.25	$	19,571.25	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Coldstream Industrial Park Campus Infrastructure	$	2,548,210.00	$	2,548,210.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Bike/Ped - Brighton	$	81,310.00	$	116,310.00	$	35,000.00
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Bike/Ped - Harrodsburg	$	571,276.02	$	713,892.17	$	142,616.15
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Bike/Ped - Town Branch Trail (Manchester)	$	67,500.00	$	67,500.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Jefferson Street Viaduct	$	1,096,661.00	$	1,096,661.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Fire SCBA	$	3,075,869.75	$	3,075,869.75	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Public Safety Fleet	$	1,500,000.00	$	1,500,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Code Enforcement Grants for Residents with Low Income (FY22)	$	200,000.00	$	200,000.00	$	-
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Code Enforcement Grants for Residents with Low Income (FY23)	$	200,000.00	$	200,000.00	$	-

ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Revenue and Expense Report

Expense					
EC 6: Revenue Replacement/Government Services		$ 60,770,599.85	$ 62,614,350.64	$ 1,843,750.79
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Workforce Development Grants to Service Partners (FY22)	$ 399,727.85	$ 399,727.85	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Workforce Development Grants to Service Partners (FY23)	$ 400,000.00	$ 400,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Workforce Development (Other)	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	LexArts (FY24)	$ 325,000.00	$ 325,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Non-Profit Capital Grants	$ 6,148,295.97	$ 6,148,295.97	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Lexington Community Land Trust - Davis Bottom Community Center	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 2,000,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Housing Stabilization - Hope Center Transitional Housing	$ 2,000,000.00	$ 2,000,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Family Care Center Improvements	$ 60,000.00	$ 60,000.00	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Public Safety Technology Equipment Purchase - MDC	$ 489,999.58	$ 489,999.58	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Public Safety Technology Equipment Purchase - Laptop	$ 99,820.34	$ 99,820.34	$ -
6.01	Provision of Government Services	Solarize Lexington Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Low Income Hom	$ 1,986,684.40	$ 1,986,684.40	$ -
EC 7: Administrative		$ 1,329,677.22	$ 1,329,677.22	$ -
7.01	Administrative Expenses	ARPA Administrative Services	$ 1,329,677.22	$ 1,329,677.22	$ -
Total Expenses		$ 119,332,489.48	$ 121,178,058.00	$ 1,845,568.52
TOTAL - ARPA SLFRF		$ 1,845,568.52	$ -	$ (1,845,568.52)

Questions?

Hilary Angelucci
American Rescue Plan Act Project Manager
hangelucci@lexingtonky.gov

LEXINGTON

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

200 E. Main St
Lexington, KY 40507

Master

File Number: 0260-26

File ID:	0260-26	**Type:**	Committee Item	**Status:**	Agenda Ready
Version:	1	**Contract #:**		**In Control:**	Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
				File Created:	03/20/2026
File Name:	March Opioid Abatement Fund Update			**Final Action:**	

Title: Opioid Abatement Fund Update

Notes:

Sponsors:		**Enactment Date:**	
Attachments:	March Opioid Abatement Fund Update	**Enactment Number:**	
Deed #:		**Hearing Date:**	
Drafter:		**Effective Date:**	

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File 0260-26

Title
Opioid Abatement Fund Update

LFUCG OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENT FUNDS

March 24, 2026

Mayor Linda Gorton's Prioritized Recommendations

LEXINGTON

What are Opioid Abatement Funds?

- Opioid Abatement Funds are monies that stem from the national opioid settlement.

- The national opioid settlements are a series of legal agreements where opioid manufacturers and distributors, being held responsible for their role in exacerbating the opioid crisis, are paying billions of dollars to resolve lawsuits with state and local governments across the U.S. The funds are directed toward addiction treatment, prevention, and recovery efforts with an emphasis on supporting communities impacted by the epidemic. Kentucky is scheduled to receive well over $980 million dollars over the course of several years. (https://kyoaac.ky.gov/)

Opioid Litigation

- In 2017, LFUCG joined with over 30,000 municipal plaintiffs around the country in a lawsuit against the distributors and manufacturers of opioids.

- Lawsuits proceeding along three tracks:
  - Trials
  - Settlements
  - Bankruptcies

Mayor's Opioid Abatement Commission

▪ The Commission was created with the mission to recommend appropriate uses for proceeds received regarding the National Opioid Litigation activities.

• The commission met monthly for 2 years to review presentations, programs, and community needs.
• Members completed the Recovery Ready Communities Assessment, leading to Lexington being recognized by the Governor as a Recovery Ready Community.
• After several months of review and discussion, the commission deliberated and developed recommendations.
• Recommendations were submitted to Mayor Gorton.
• I carefully reviewed and prioritized recommendations based on available funding and long-term sustainability.

Settlement Fund Overview

- LFUCG currently holds almost $9 million in opioid litigation funds.

- Approximately $30 million is expected over 18 years with the first payment received in Dec. 2022.

- Timing of payments depends on bankruptcy proceedings and payout schedules.

- The expenditure of funds must align with opioid abatement purposes.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Eligible Uses (KRS 15.291)

- Intervention, treatment and recovery services
- Detoxification
- Access to opioid-abatement-related housing
- Transportation to treatment or recovery programs
- Employment training/educational services
- Creating/supporting call centers
- Supporting crisis stabilization centers
- Oversight of opioid treatment programs
- Scholarships/support for behavioral health
- Training for health care providers
- Preventing over-subscribing
- Prescription drug monitoring
- Education of law enforcement/first responders
- Opioid related emergency response services
- Mental health trauma

- Engaging nonprofits
- Recovery for pregnant women or women of childbearing age, and training for healthcare providers working with these women
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome prevention/treatment/education
- Wrap-around services
- Supporting housing
- Public education
- Drug-take back disposal
- Costs of administering opioid antagonist
- Pre-trial services that connect individuals to treatment/services
- Treatment and recovery courts
- Treatment/recovery to inmates or those recently leaving jail or on probation/parole
- But state law notes that this list is <u>not</u> exhaustive

Priority #1: Establish an Interest-Bearing Account

Interest-bearing account.
Allow funds to grow while
awaiting allocation.
Interest reinvested into
prevention, treatment, and
recovery.

Priority #2: Allocate funds for Supportive Housing and Integrated Treatment Services

- Invest in supportive housing with integrated treatment services.
- Align with Homelessness Task Force efforts.
- Temporary, transitional, and permanent supportive housing pertaining to abatement criteria.
- Inclusive of wraparound services and recovery supports.

Priority #3: Allocate Support for LFUCG Community Corrections

- Invest in Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and Mental Health (MH) treatment inside Community Corrections.

- Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) expansion and behavioral health counseling.

- Reentry planning and peer navigation.

- Reduce recidivism and overdose risk.

Priority #4: Launch a tiered Community Grant Program

- A grant program for local Non-Profits
- These funds will be offered in a tiered structure offering annual micro and biennial macro grant opportunities.

Priority #5: Invest in the LFUCG Substance Use Disorder Intervention (SUDI) Program

- Provide ongoing support to facilitate mobile naloxone distribution, programming and harm reduction efforts.

Priority #6: Host an Opioid Response and Recovery Symposium

- Pilot a community-wide opioid response and recovery symposium.

- Review spending, current programming and outcomes.

- Engage lived experience, community partners and addiction/behavioral health professionals.

- Assists in integrating subject matter experts and the community with identifying gaps.

Questions?

LEXINGTON

Lexington-Fayette Urban County
Government

Master

200 E. Main St
Lexington, KY 40507

File Number: 0643-25

File ID:	0643-25	Type:	Committee Item	Status:	Agenda Ready
Version:	1	Contract #:		In Control:	Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
				File Created:	06/20/2025
File Name:	Digital Accessibility			Final Action:	

Title: Digital Accessibility

Notes:

Sponsors:		Enactment Date:
Attachments:	Digital Accessibility - March 2026, Lexington Digital Accessibility Plan Draft	Enactment Number:
Deed #:		Hearing Date:
Drafter:		Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver-sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File 0643-25

Title
Digital Accessibility

GET CONNECTED LEX
DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY FOR LEXINGTON

Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
March 24, 2026
Troy Black, Administrative Specialist, Office of the Mayor
Liz Rodgers, CIO, Department of Information Technology
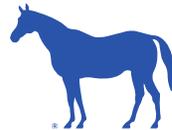
LEXINGTON

Background

- Congress passed the Digital Equity Act in 2021 as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Act sought to close the digital divide and ensure all communities have the technology and skills needed to participate in the digital economy.

- Digital Accessibility allows individuals to have the necessary information technology resources to participate fully in the economy and society. This includes access to education, job opportunities, healthcare, civic services, online commerce, and social platforms.

- Kentucky's Digital Equity Plan was presented early 2024, and the state was awarded federal funding to implement the plan. The plan was developed in collaboration with Kentuckians to address issues like internet affordability, digital literacy, and access to devices.

- Recognizing the importance of facilitating a plan for our community, LFUCG officials began discussing how we might align with and support the Digital Equity Act of 2021 and the Kentucky Digital Equity Plan. It was determined that we need a local plan inclusive of community voices that identifies services and gaps, guides policy, and promotes access to resources.

- In August 2024, Digital Accessibility for Lexington was referred to the Urban County Council's Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee. Councilmember James Brown, in coordination with the offices of the Chief Development Officer and the Chief Information Officer formed Lexington's Digital Accessibility Workgroup.

Timeline

LEXINGTON

Digital Accessibility for Lexington assigned to Council Committee

Draft Digital Accessibility Plan/Roadmap Template Presented to Workgroup

Survey Results inform 1st Draft Digital Accessibility Plan/Roadmap

Draft Digital Accessibility Plan launched on Engage Lexington for Public Input

Oct 2024

June 2025

October 2025

March 2026

Aug 2024

June 2025

August 2025

February 2026

Digital Accessibility Workgroup formed & 1st meeting held

GetConnectedLex Expo Event held and Public Input Survey launched

Survey Results & Draft Plan/Roadmap presented to Workgroup

Draft Digital Accessibility Plan/Roadmap Presented to Council Committee

Approach & Data Gathering

LEXINGTON

- **Formation of the Working Group:** Established the Lexington Digital Accessibility Working Group, bringing together city leaders, community organizations, and industry partners to guide planning and explore barriers to digital accessibility and strategic priorities.

- **Case Study Analysis:** Evaluated case studies from ten similar cities to note common gaps and solutions, major trends, and key topics to consider.

- **Community Engagement:** Hosted the Digital Accessibility Expo to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and launch the citywide Digital Accessibility Community Survey, inviting residents to share experiences and shape Lexington's digital accessibility priorities.

- **Community Survey:** Collected input from 219 residents across all 12 council districts through the GetConnectedLex Survey, identifying barriers to internet access, device ownership, and digital-skills development.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration**: Engaged libraries, workforce partners, schools, nonprofits, and ISPs to align resources, reduce duplication, and inform the city's coordinated digital empowerment strategy.

Get Connected Lex Expo

- The event opened with welcoming remarks from the mayor, setting the stage for a day focused on bridging digital access and inclusion in Lexington.

- Vendors participated by hosting informational tables, sharing resources and insights to support digital accessibility and connect attendees with available services.

- Heather Gate led a session on internet safety and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in daily digital interactions.

- A panel discussion followed, featuring Austin Howel, Ronald Delgado, Kevin Schoedinger, and Owen Cropper. The panel addressed critical intersections between digital accessibility, education, and workforce development.

- Kim McGinnis led a discussion on the integration of technology in healthcare and its impact on accessibility and patient outcomes.

- Lunch was generously provided by Stella's, offering a variety of boxed options for attendees.

- The official launch of Lexington's **Digital Accessibility Survey**, designed to gather community input and identify barriers to digital inclusion across the city.

Community Survey & Plan Feedback

 LEXINGTON

- **Community Engagement:** Collected over 200 unique responses across all 12 council districts through the GetConnectedLex Survey and Draft Plan Feedback efforts. This feedback help to identify barriers to internet access, device ownership, and digital-skills development and help to guide priorities.
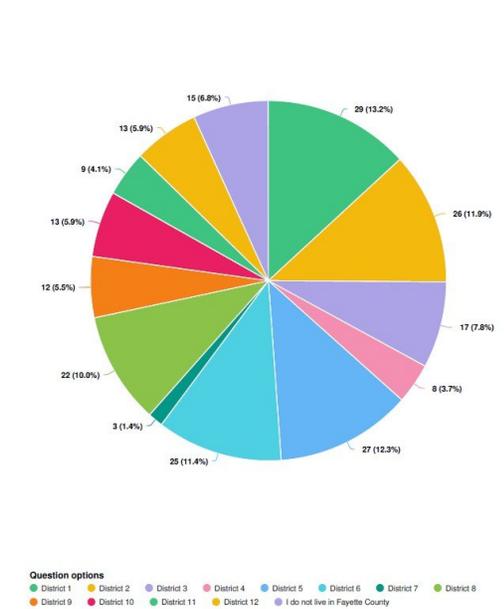

Get Connected Lex

Lexington's Digital Accessibility Workgroup

View Project

Q9 Barriers to Participation: What are the biggest challenges you face in getting online or using digital tools effectively? (Select all that apply)

Values: 96, 78, 42, 10, 10, 40, 20, 38

Question options
- Cost of internet
- Cost of devices
- Lack of skills or training
- Physical or accessibility limitations
- Language barriers
- Lack of time
- Lack of interest
- Other (please specify)
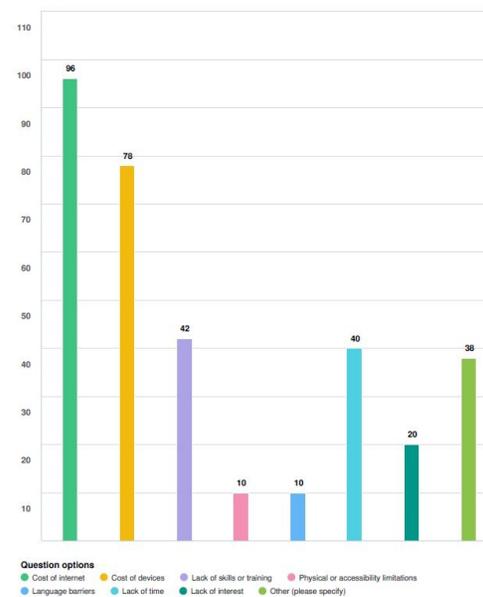
Q14 What is your Council District?

- 29 (13.2%)
- 26 (11.9%)
- 17 (7.8%)
- 8 (3.7%)
- 27 (12.3%)
- 25 (11.4%)
- 3 (1.4%)
- 22 (10.0%)
- 12 (5.5%)
- 13 (5.9%)
- 9 (4.1%)
- 13 (5.9%)
- 15 (6.8%)

Question options
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6
- District 7
- District 8
- District 9
- District 10
- District 11
- District 12
- I do not live in Fayette County

What we learned

Availability

- o Coverage of Fayette County is at 99%*

- o 11 area service providers (includes satellite, fixed wireless)

- o 13% of survey respondents reported no/slow service

- o Reach and reliability of public Wi-Fi varies

Affordability

- o Cost of broadband cited as a barrier by 96% of survey respondents

- o Many providers have affordable plans, special plans for seniors and students

- o Cost of internet-capable devices also a significant contributor at 78%

Digital Skills

- o Major focus is on employment

- o Opportunities often misaligned with groups in need

- o Information about resources is scattered

- o 58% of respondents expressed interest or openness to learning

*June 2025

Strategies & Key Contributors

LEXINGTON

|	Goals	Strategies	Key Contributors
Reliable internet community-wide	• Fiber optic broadband available throughout Fayette County • Adoption of alternative broadband technologies	• Oversee completion of fiber construction projects and report progress to residents • Engage with additional providers (fixed wireless, satellite) to expand consumer choice • Map locations providing free public Wi-Fi	• LFUCG • Service providers • Schools, businesses, nonprofits
Affordable devices and service plans	• Community awareness of lower-cost service plan options • Financial assistance for qualifying individuals or families • Device re-use or donation pipelines	• Promote lower-cost plan options across websites, social media, other channels • Connect qualifying individuals/families with existing resources for financial assistance • Establish means for area businesses to donate decommissioned devices	• LFUCG • Service providers • Nonprofits and Nonprofit networks • Area business operators
Digitally empowered residents	• Awareness of digital skills resources • Programming targeted to specific populations (ESL, Veterans, etc.) • Digital accessibility resources for local online businesses	• Consolidate and publish catalog of area digital skills training providers and their programming • Work with providers to develop new programming to fill digital skills gaps • Develop training or resource kits to help local businesses create accessible online experiences	• LFUCG • Lexington Public Library • Community anchor institutions • Schools, businesses, nonprofits

Models & Opportunities

LEXINGTON
WORK-Lexington

Lexington Public Library

in LEARNING
WITH Lynda.com CONTENT

JUBILEE JOBS

COMMUNITY & RESIDENT SERVICES PRESENTS

Laptops 4 Learning Program
Computer Skills Training + Free Laptop Giveaway

HILL
THE HUB FOR INNOVATIVE
LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

P DIGITALSCHOLARS

metro c.a.t.s.
COMPUTER ACCESS TO SUCCEED

Goodwill
Kentucky

LEXINGTON
Senior Center

k. north

digitaldashers

Next Steps

- Prepare final draft of Digital Accessibility Plan
- Council to consider adopting a resolution that acknowledges the work of the Digital Accessibility Workgroup and supports the plan and action items
- Refer recommendations that fall under the responsibility of LFUCG to the Council's respective standing committees
- Work with the private and education sectors, non-profit and community organizations to implement recommendations that go beyond the scope of LFUCG

Review → Revise

Refer ← Adopt

Implement
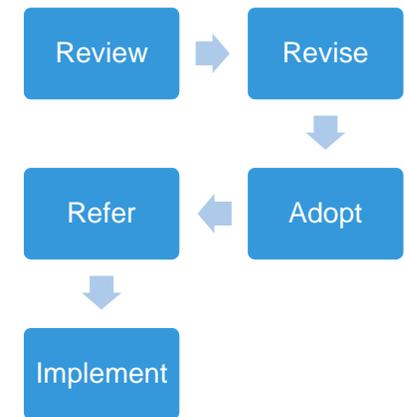
Questions?

Digital Accessibility Plan for Lexington, KY-Draft 10-23-2025

Table of Content

1 Vision & Goals

Get Connected Lex Vision

- **Get Connected Lex is an initiative driven by the Lexington's Digital Accessibility Workgroup**

Contributors

- LFUCG Officials and staff
- Business and nonprofit partners in technology, workforce and economic development
- Educational institutions
- Area internet service providers
- Community members

Approach

- Survey the community to identify gaps, needs, and resources
- Partner with local organizations, businesses, and government agencies to provide broadband, devices, and training
- Use collaborative planning to target underserved demographics

Impact Areas

- Economic opportunities
- Health outcomes through telehealth access
- Broadband access for all community members
- Educational outcomes with digital learning tools

52

Get Connected Lex Vision

Collaborative Plan to Close Lexington's Digital Divide

Our Vision	Workgroup Goals

A thriving Lexington where every resident, regardless of age, background, or location, has access to affordable broadband, reliable devices, and the skills to navigate the digital world.

By leveraging technology and collaborative partnerships, we aim to unlock new economic opportunities, improve health outcomes and enhance educational experiences.
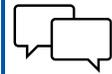
Organize outreach efforts to identify current providers and available services.

Identify service gaps and match potential contributors to corresponding opportunity areas

Gather community feedback to determine the efficacy of services and messaging.

Create and publish an online inventory of Digital Accessibility resources in Fayette County.

Cultivate collaboration among partners to broaden reach and improve access to funding.

Develop a Digital Accessibility Plan for Lexington.

2 Why is digital accessibility important?

Thriving in a Digital Economy

Digital Accessibility is Essential

- **Promotes fair access**: Lack of connectivity or digital skills may exclude residents from essential services, economic opportunity, and educational experiences.

- **Drives economic growth**: Broadband availability provides a competitive advantage in economic development efforts.

- **Empowers job seekers:** Digital skills training can open new career pathways for individuals and create work-ready talent pipelines for employers.

- **Boosts health outcomes:** Access to online health resources can increase access to care and promote health information and social connection.

- **Provides 24/7 convenience**: Online platforms are available all hours, which improves access to services.

Digital Accessibility Drivers:

- **65%** of rural residents have home internet access, compared to **73%** of urban residents
- **54%** of households with incomes below $25,000 have internet access at home, compared to **82%** of those earning $100,000 or more
- **92%** of employers require foundation digital skills while **one third** of workers in the US lack them

Key Performance Indicators to Measure:

- Broadband availability and adoption rates
- Device ownership levels
- Digital skills proficiency
- Workforce alignment with in-demand skills
- User satisfaction and feedback for online services

3 Approach & Data Gathering
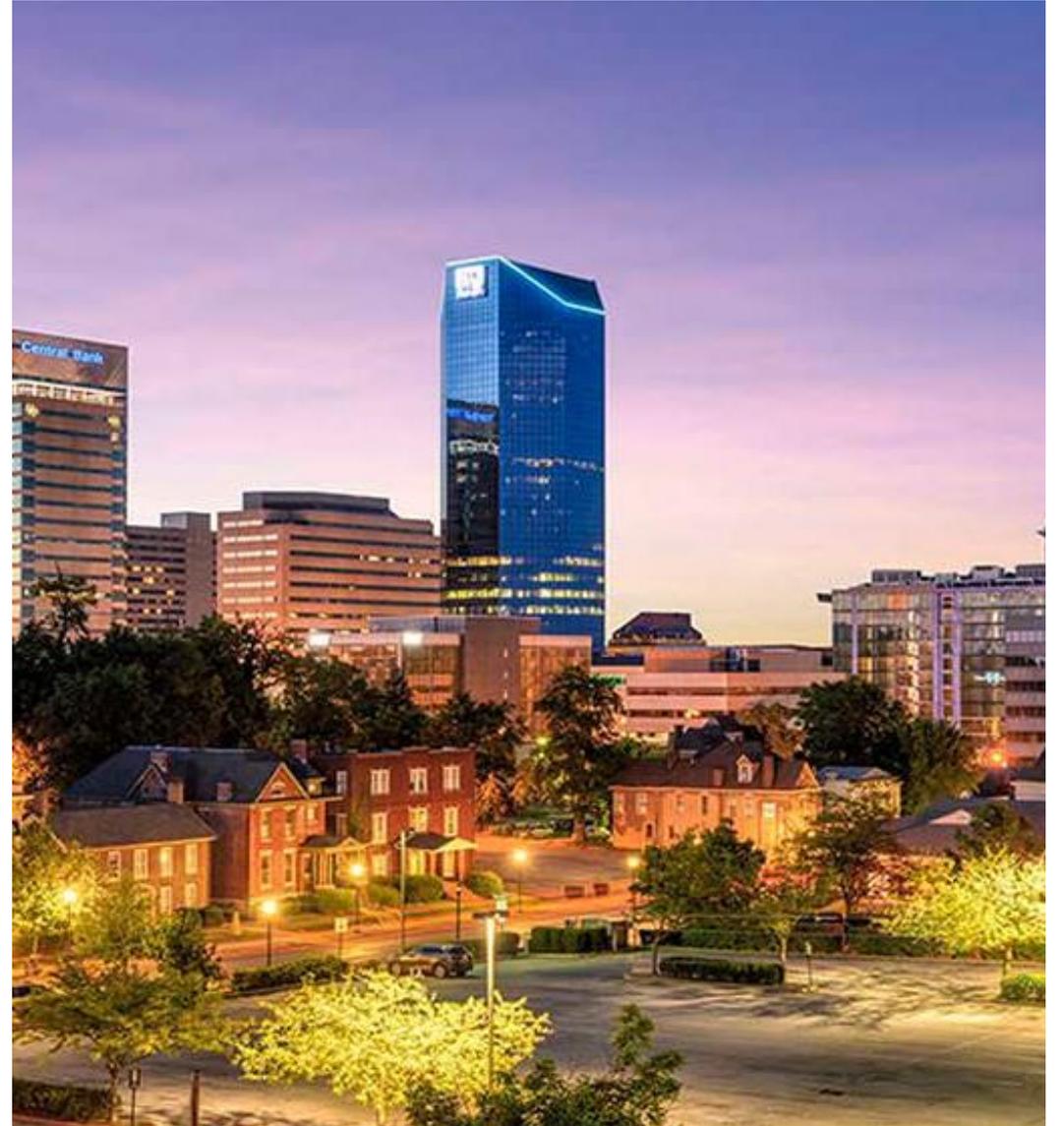
Approach & Data Gathering

Formation of the Working Group: Established the Lexington Digital Accessibility Working Group, bringing together city leaders, community organizations, and industry partners to guide planning and explore barriers to digital accessibility and strategic priorities.

Community Engagement: Hosted the Digital Accessibility Expo to raise awareness, foster dialogue, and launch the citywide Digital Accessibility Community Survey, inviting residents to share experiences and shape Lexington's digital accessibility priorities.

Community Survey: Collected input from 219 residents across all 12 council districts through the Get Connected Lex Survey, identifying barriers to internet access, device ownership, and digital-skills development.

Stakeholder Collaboration: Engaged libraries, workforce partners, schools, nonprofits, and ISPs to align resources, reduce duplication, and inform the city's coordinated digital empowerment strategy.

Case Study Analysis: Collected and analyzed data from comparable U.S. cities that have carried out efforts to address digital disparities.

Case Studies Analysis

Common Gaps:

- Low digital literacy in underserved neighborhoods

- Inconsistent broadband access in low-income and public housing areas

- Limited device access among older adults and low-income households

- Under-coordination across stakeholders (gov't, schools, libraries)

Common Solutions:

- Digital navigators/ambassadors (neighborhood-based, trusted support)

- Library-led programs offering devices, Wi-Fi, and digital training

- Public-private partnerships with ISPs for discounted internet

- Device distribution via nonprofits and housing programs

- Cross-sector coalitions to coordinate digital inclusion efforts

Major Trends:

- Localized digital navigator programs (KC, Oakland, Cleveland)

- Library systems as digital hubs (Cleveland, Louisville, Raleigh)

- Housing-focused strategies to close access gaps (Oakland, Minneapolis)

- Coalitions driving coordination across sectors (Raleigh, Louisville)

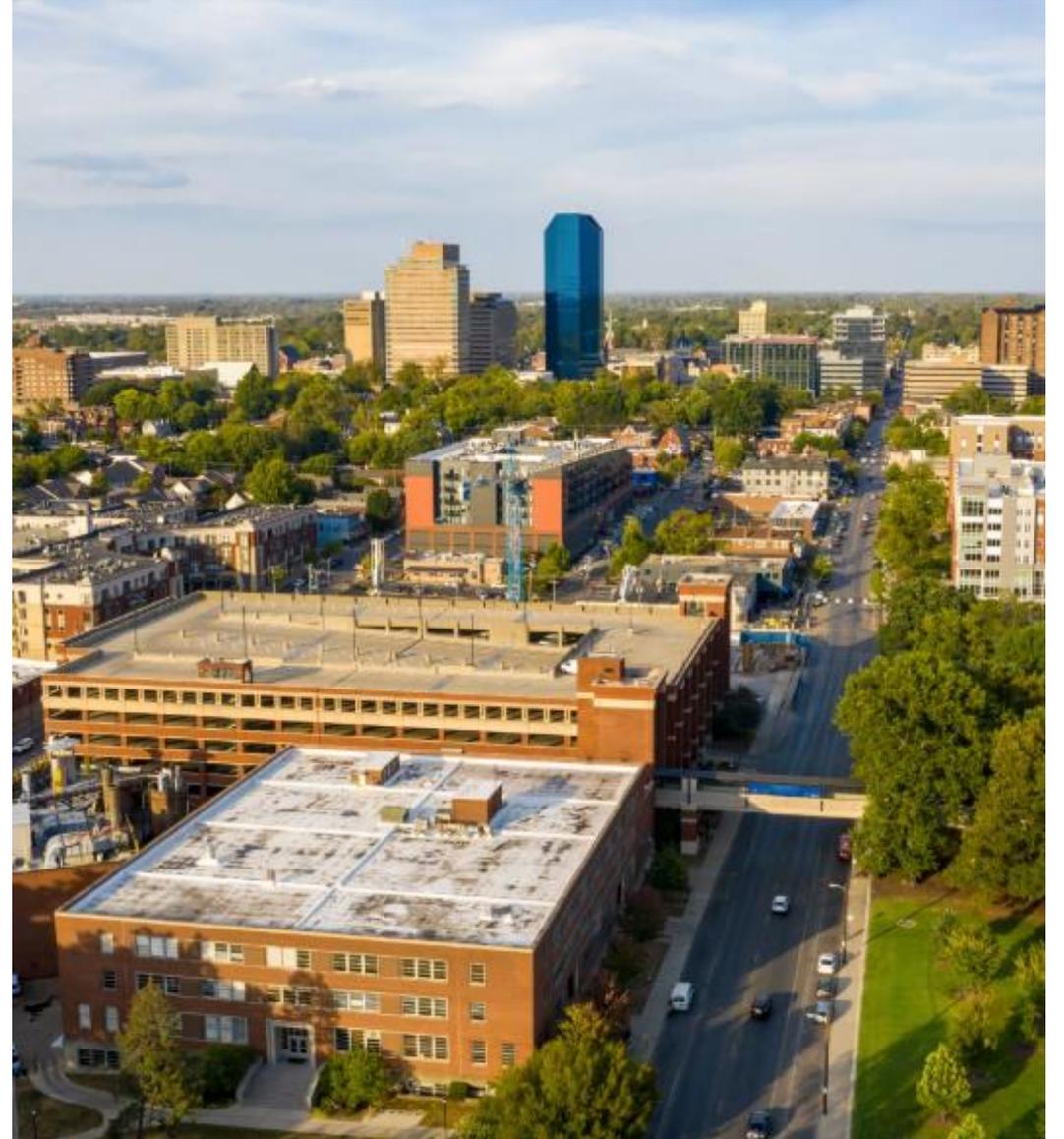- Cities investing in fiber infrastructure (Minneapolis)

Things to Consider Moving Forward:

- Formalize and fund coalitions to avoid siloed efforts

- Expand navigator programs city-wide for one-on-one support

- Align infrastructure and adoption efforts (tech access ≠ tech use)

- Sustain efforts post-grant funding (ensure long-term capacity)

4 Lexington Today

Overview of Current Digital Landscape

01 Availability

- ✓ Lexington is covered at 99%, with 91% of households subscribed

- ✓ Only 63.5% of survey respondents reported having **reliable and affordable service**

02 Affordability

- ✓ Affordability of high-speed internet and devices are the leading barriers to broadband adoption

- ✓ Individuals and households must often prioritize necessities over the cost of broadband subscription, due to limited financial resources

03 Digital Skills

- ✓ Lexingtonians expressed strong interest in learning basic computer and productivity skills, along with how to protect their privacy and avoid scams

- ✓ Most respondents (58%) expressed interest or openness to digital training opportunities
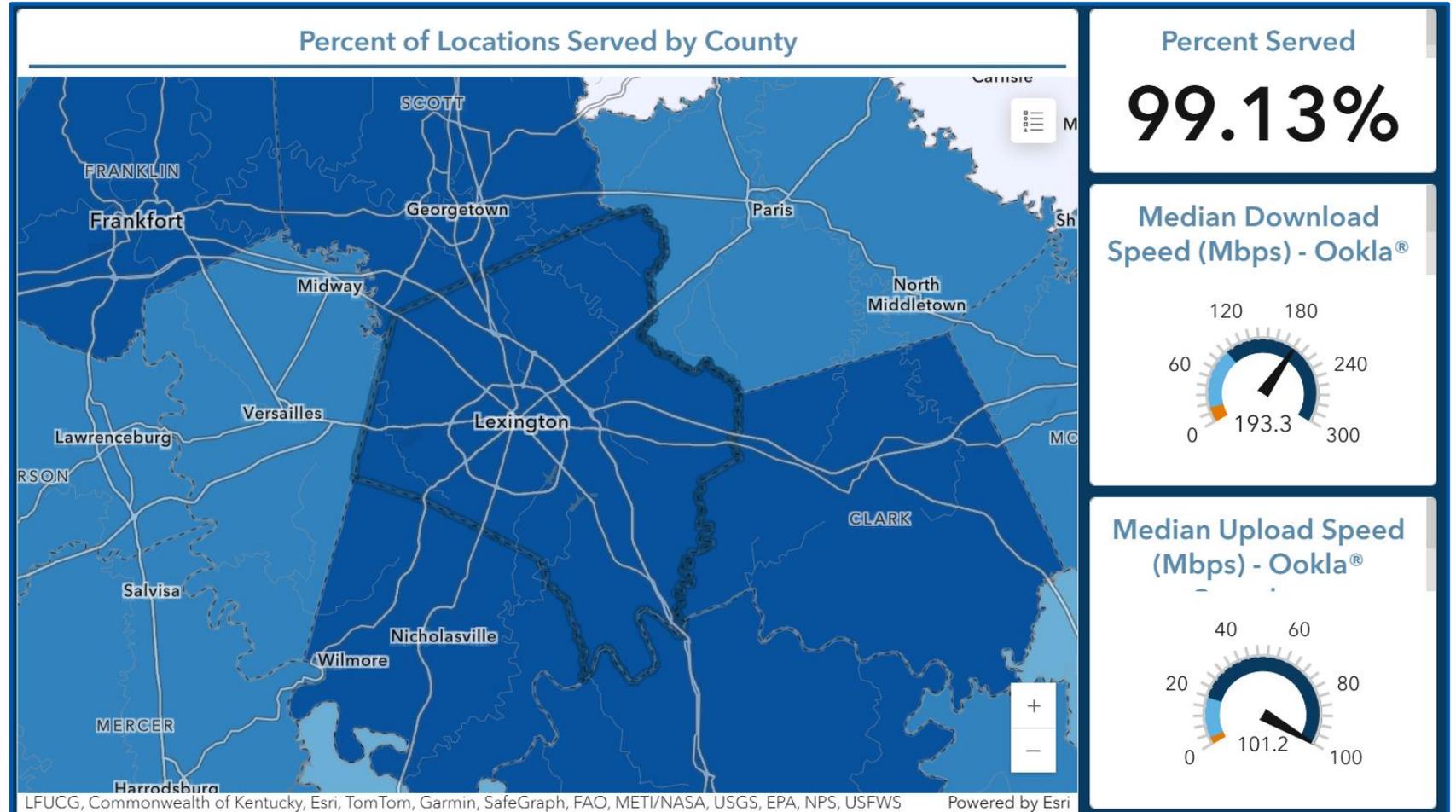
01. Availability of Broadband Internet

Availability of Broadband (high-speed internet) service is not a significant barrier

According to the Kentucky Office of Broadband Development, high-speed internet is available at **99.13%** of serviceable locations in Fayette County

Source: KY Office of Broadband Development

Percent of Locations Served by County

LFUCG, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS   Powered by Esri

Percent Served

99.13%

Median Download Speed (Mbps) - Ookla®

193.3

Median Upload Speed (Mbps) - Ookla®

101.2

The FCC defines broadband as internet service with speeds of at least 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads. This level of service is usually provided by fiber, cable, fixed wireless, and some new satellite connections.

Do you currently have access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet in your home?

Response	Percentage
Yes, but slow/unreliable	6%
Yes, but too expensive	24%
No	7%
Yes	64%
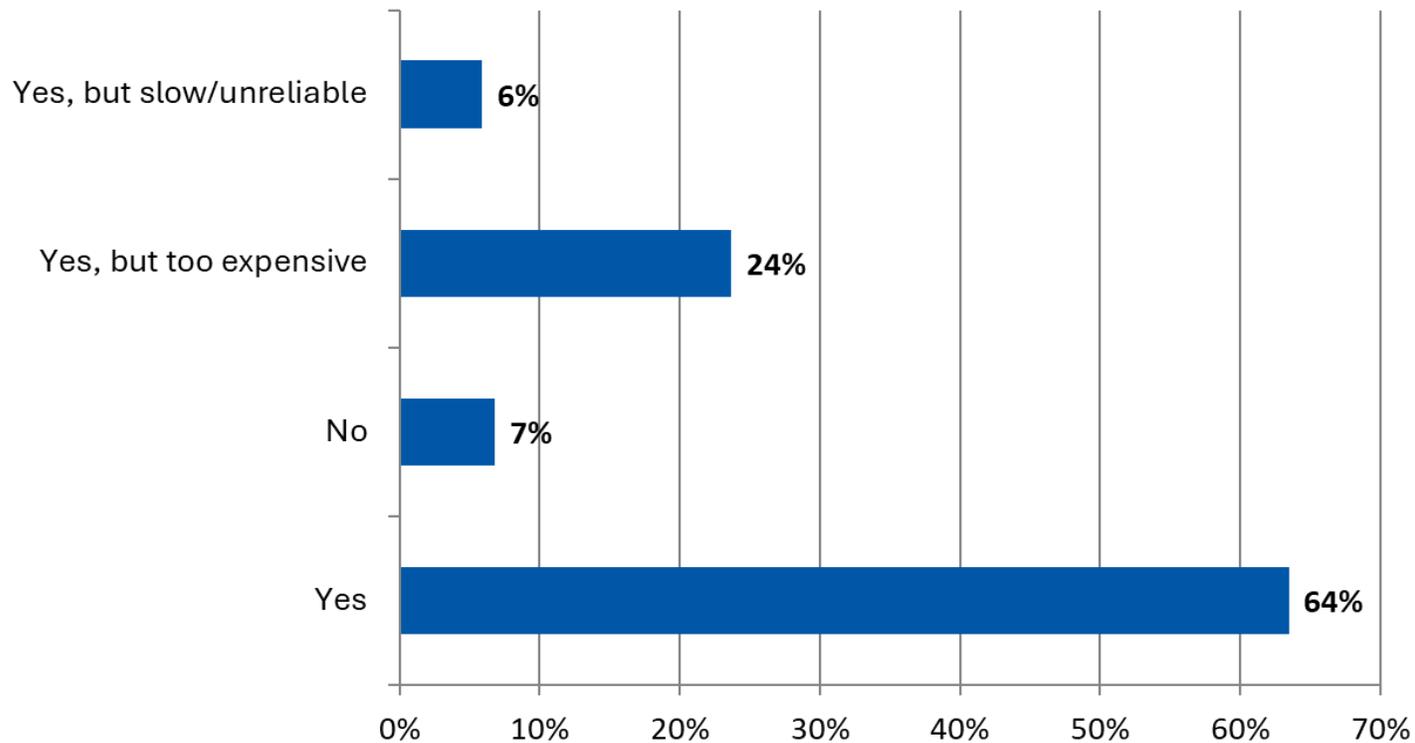
While **99% of households have access to high-speed internet, only 64% of survey participants reported reliable and affordable high-speed internet. 13% indicated they had no access or it was slow and unreliable.**

Findings are based on Lexington's 'Get Connected Lex' community survey (April 2024 – September 2025). Results are self-reported and unscientific, intended to provide directional community insights rather than statistically representative data.

01. Availability of Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is limited and varies in reliability

Commercial and Campus Hotspots

- **Coverage Area**: guest Wi-Fi at university campuses, coffee shops, and restaurants
- **Access Details**: Guest or public Wi-Fi
- **Quality & Reliability** varies in quality; informal access with limited support

Lexington Public Library System

- **Coverage Area**: Wi-Fi access available across all 6 branches
- **Access Details**: free Wi-Fi is provided and can be accessed using the password provided at the front desk of the library
- **Quality & Reliability**: reliable; uniform across the system

Parks and Public Spaces

- **Coverage Area**: Wi-Fi is provided by the City or partners at many parks and public spaces
- **Access Details**: free Wi-Fi available park-wide or in designated areas
- **Quality & Reliability** varies in reach and reliability; Gatton Park provides high-quality Wi-Fi throughout to park visitors
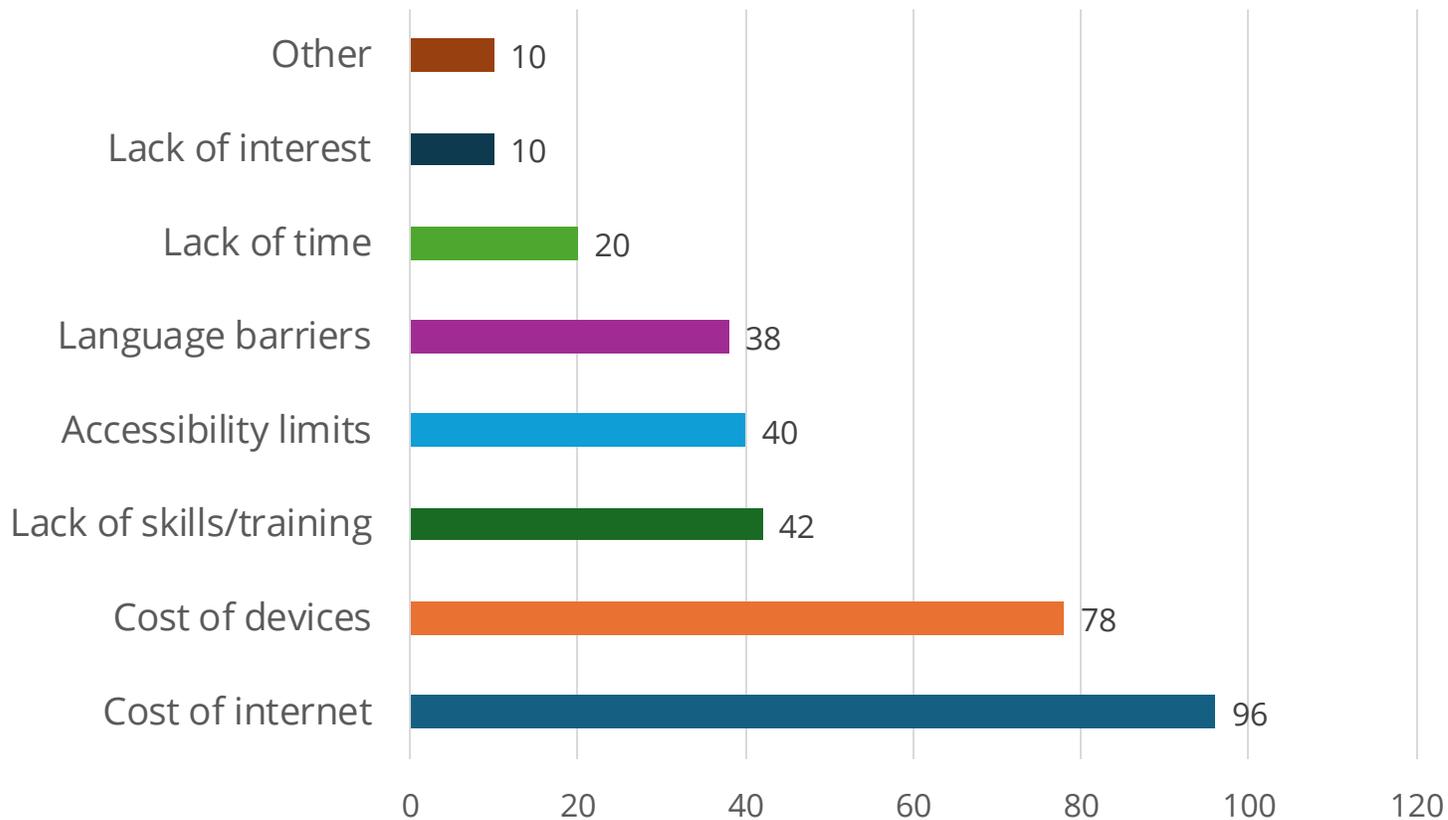
01. Profile of Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

Provider	Service Type	Coverage	High-Speed Plans >=100Mbps downstream	Low-Cost Plan <=$30/month
T Fiber built by metronet	Fiber Broadband	90.2%	Y	N
Spectrum	Fiber & Cable Broadband	95.2%	Y	Y
kinetic by windstream	Fiber Broadband & DSL	95.0%	Y	Y
T HOME INTERNET	Fixed Wireless	94.1%	Y	Y
EarthLink	Fixed Wireless	53.3%	Y	
AT&T	Fixed Wireless	53.3%	Y	Y
verizon	Fixed Wireless	54.4%	Y	Y
BRIDGEMAXX A service of Altius Broadband	Fixed Wireless	24.3%	Y	
HughesNet	Satellite	100%	N	
STARLINK	Satellite	100%	Y	
Viasat	Satellite	100%	Y	

source: ISP Reports

02. Gaps in Internet Affordability

Affordability is a Key Digital Accessibility Gap

Category	Value
Other	10
Lack of interest	10
Lack of time	20
Language barriers	38
Accessibility limits	40
Lack of skills/training	42
Cost of devices	78
Cost of internet	96

(x-axis: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120)

- Individuals and households must **prioritize necessities** over the cost of broadband subscription, due to limited financial resources.

- A **lack of information** and understanding of affordable programs furthers the reluctance of adoption.

- The **cost of broadband** was cited as a barrier by **96%** of our survey respondents.

- **78%** cited the **cost of internet-capable devices** as a barrier to accessibility.

source: Get Connected Lex

03. Community Feedback on Digital Skills

Digital Skills Topics of Interest

Topic	Value
Managing finances/bills	44
Privacy/avoiding scams	110
Video calls & communications	39
Applying for jobs or benefits	35
Email/Internet	32
Other	73
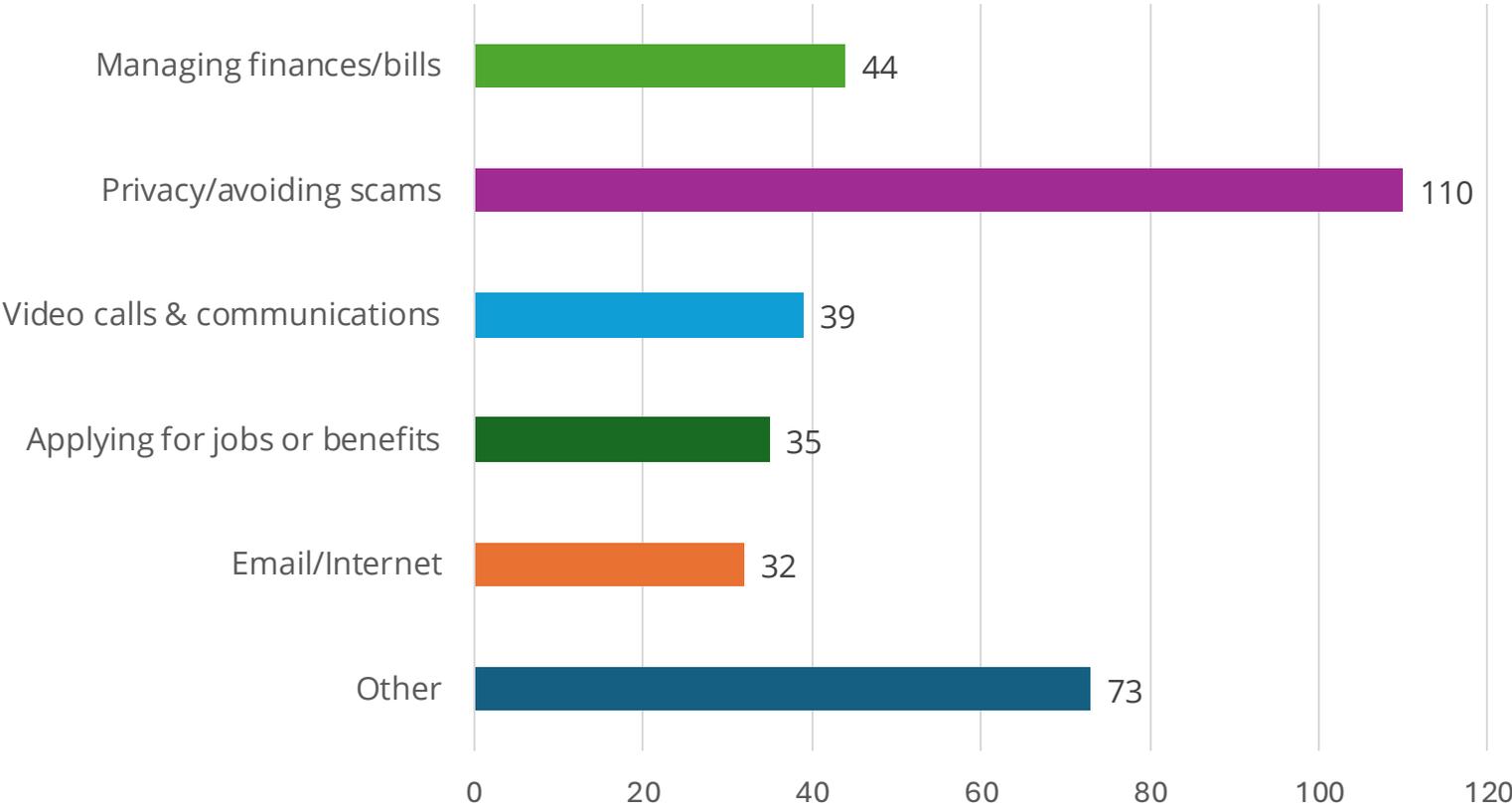
The majority (58%) of survey respondents expressed interest or openness in digital skills training.

Residents were most interested in learning how to protect their privacy and avoid scams.

Findings are based on Lexington's 'Get Connected Lex' community survey (April 2024 – September 2025). Results are self-reported and unscientific, intended to provide directional community insights rather than statistically representative data.

03. Community Feedback on Digital Skills

Key themes emerged from open-ended responses to the Get Connected Lex survey:

- **Basic Computer & Software Skills:** Broad interest in **learning the basics** of business productivity tools like Microsoft Excel and other software.

- **Digital Navigation:** Many seek **practical guidance** for understanding how to use QR codes, share files, navigate websites, and use other popular apps.

- **Privacy & Security:** Several emphasized **online safety**, data privacy, and maintaining secure systems.

- **Advanced Technical Topics:** Some interest in learning coding, website building, programming languages, and IT management, with a few **references to specialized tools** for AI, GIS/mapping, etc.

- **Access Barriers or Connectivity Issues:** A few respondents mentioned unreliable or unaffordable internet as a **barrier to participation** in online training.

Overall Takeaway

Strong interest in basic computer and productivity skills, with some curiosity about advanced tech and privacy. Many feel no further training is needed, indicating outreach and awareness should target those still facing skill gaps or barriers.

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source:

03. Demographics Affected by a Lack of Digital Skills

Certain groups face greater challenges due to limited digital skills.

- **Aging Population:** With 13.5% of Lexington's population aged 65 and older, key findings indicate that the leading barrier to broadband adoption among aging populations is **digital literacy**.

- **Justice-Involved Individuals:** Incarcerated individuals often face significant digital skill gaps due to limited access to technology and digital education during their incarceration.

- **Veterans:** Many veterans cannot take advantage of the benefits the internet offers due to limited skills.

- **Non-English speakers:** Key concerns for those facing language barriers include limited native-language services and a digital skills gap.

- **Low- income individuals:** The main barrier for this group is the high monthly service cost, followed closely by lack of a computer with internet access.

- **Individuals with disabilities:** Key findings indicate that a lack of reliable internet and accessibility tools limits access to telehealth services or remote jobs.

03. Organizations Providing Skills Training

Many programs focus on employment-related skills training

Public Institutions

- **Focus**: basic computer skills, internet navigation, digital creativity

- **Format**: in-person workshops, self-directed learning, device access

Educational Institutions

- **Focus**: digital literacy certification, general IT competencies, resume building, Microsoft Office, and workplace technological skills

- **Format**: classroom and online courses

Nonprofit Organizations

- **Focus**: integration of digital skills into employment pathways (resume writing, basic tech use, job searching)

- **Format**: drop-in or cohort-based development programs at centers

Community Initiatives

- **Focus**: peer-to-peer digital education for older adults, including internet basics and scams/phishing awareness

- **Format**: churches, senior centers, and community events
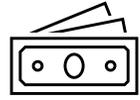
University Extension Programs

- **Focus**: public education on being connected, using internet- accessible tools, and how to effectively go online

- **Format**: workshops

Note: service region does not cover Lexington

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Source: KY's Digital Asset Inventory

5 **Digital Accessibility Strategies**

Aligning desired outcomes with goals and strategies

	Goals	Strategies	Key Contributors*
Reliable internet community-wide	• Fiber optic broadband available throughout Fayette County • Adoption of alternative broadband technologies	• Oversee completion of fiber construction projects and report progress to residents • Engage with additional providers (fixed wireless, satellite) to expand consumer choice • Map locations providing free public Wi-Fi	• *LFUCG* • *Service providers* • *FCPS, businesses, nonprofits* • *State broadband office*
Affordable devices and service plans	• Community awareness of lower-cost service plan options • Financial assistance for qualifying individuals or families • Device re-use or donation pipelines	• Promote lower-cost plan options across websites, social media, other channels • Connect qualifying individuals/families with existing resources for financial assistance • Establish means for area businesses to donate decommissioned devices	• *Service providers* • *LFUCG* • *Nonprofits and Nonprofit networks* • *Area business operators*
Digitally empowered residents	• Awareness of digital skills resources • Programming targeted to specific populations (ESL, Veterans, etc.) • Digital Navigator programs pairing residents with knowledgeable guides • Digital accessibility resources for local businesses	• Consolidate and publish catalog of area digital skills training providers and their programming • Work with providers to develop new programming to fill digital skills gaps • Create models for Digital Navigator programs • Develop training or resource kits to help local businesses create accessible online experiences	• *Lexington Public Library* • *Fayette County Public Schools* • *LFUCG* • *Community anchor institutions*

*TBD

Appendix

Definitions

	Meaning	Examples	Real-life Application
Availability	Whether the city is actively **expanding or improving** internet and broadband availability.	• Building infrastructure (fiber, free public Wi-Fi, city networks) • Partnering with ISPs to improve coverage • Providing public computer labs or tech hubs	Oakland has free Wi-Fi through OakWiFi and broadband investments
Affordability	Whether the city is addressing the **cost of internet or devices** for residents.	• Discounted internet programs (via providers or government subsidies) • Free or low-cost laptops/tablets • Helping residents sign up for federal programs like ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program)	Cleveland has digital navigators who help people sign up for internet subsidies and device access
Digital Skills	Whether the city provides **training or education** to improve digital literacy and confidence.	• Workshops or classes (basic computing, job skills) • Targeted training for seniors, youth, incarcerated/formerly incarcerated populations • Mentorship programs like "digital navigators" or "ambassadors"	Raleigh has its Digital Ambassadors program that trains people to help others learn
Partnerships	Whether the city works with **external organizations** to deliver digital inclusion services	• Collaborations with libraries, nonprofits, schools, housing authorities, or private companies • Multi-agency or multi-sector alliances • Public-private partnerships for funding, staffing, or outreach	Table Text Kansas City partners with nonprofits and libraries

Comparative Case Studies

City	Discount internet via private ISPs	Neighborhood-based digital navigators	Strong Partnership with public libraries	Focus on residents in public/subsidized housing	Explicit broadband infrastructure investment by city	Centralized cross-sector digital inclusion coalition	Target Populations
Kansas City		✓	✓		✓	✓	Low income, Seniors
Oakland	✓		✓				Low-income neighborhoods
Atlanta	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Marginalized communities
Raleigh	✓		✓		✓		Seniors, Youth
Cleveland	✓		✓	✓		✓	All ages, urban
Minneapolis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	BIPOC and Immigrants
Louisville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Low-income households, Seniors

*All 7 cities have access, affordability, digital skills, and partnership initiatives.

Kansas City, Mo

- Kansas City's Digital Equity Strategic Plan focuses on building **sustainable** digital access and participation across income and racial lines. It promotes **neighborhood-based digital navigators**, supports **free public Wi-Fi networks**, and coordinates with public libraries and nonprofits. The plan also integrates digital equity into the city's Smart City initiatives and promotes **open civic data access** for residents.

The City's Gap	Solutions	Things to consider
• Disparities in internet access and device availability in low-income and minority neighborhoods.	• Digital Equity Strategic Plan (2022) established a roadmap focused on affordability, accessibility, and training.	• Form a Digital Equity Task Force to oversee equity planning.
• Lack of digital literacy among older adults and underserved communities.	• Partnerships with libraries and nonprofits to provide training and device access.	• Partner with libraries and community organizations for tech support desks and device lending.
	• GIS mapping to target the most underserved neighborhoods.	• Use data to map internet access disparities.
	• Public-private partnerships to encourage ISP participation in low-cost plans.	• Promote and help residents enroll in low-cost internet programs (e.g., ACP).

Source: City of Kansas City, MO Digital Equity Strategic Plan (2022)

Cleveland, OH

- Cleveland's digital inclusion initiative is a **collaborative effort** between the **city**, **nonprofit partners**, and **local internet service providers**. The program prioritizes residents in public housing, establishing broadband access in those buildings and offering training sessions on digital skills. The city uses **Digital Navigators** to assist residents in signing up for subsidies and learning **basic tech skills**, making it a **national model** for holistic urban digital inclusion.

The City's Gap

- Cleveland has one of the lowest broadband adoption rates among large U.S. cities.

- Many residents live in digital deserts with no ISP competition or infrastructure.

Solutions

- Funded Digital Navigators to work directly with residents.

- Hosted community events to enroll people in ACP (Affordable Connectivity Program).

- Built out public-private infrastructure with nonprofits and housing authorities.

- Digital skill training tied to workforce development and job placement.

Things to consider

- Embed Digital Navigators in community housing, libraries, and job centers.

- Run large-scale ACP enrollment drives at schools and community events.

- Partner with ISPs and nonprofits to lay last-mile broadband infrastructure.

- Offer skills-based digital literacy focused on job readiness.

Louisville, KY

- Louisville **does not have** a city-specific digital equity plan, but the state of Kentucky has published a comprehensive strategy that includes Louisville. The plan prioritizes **collaboration with local governments**, addresses affordability through subsidies and partnerships, and includes initiatives for workforce training and device access. Although the city's local efforts are not fully detailed, the state's involvement offers a **framework for digital inclusion** in Louisville.

The City's Gap

- No city-specific digital equity plan.

- Limited public awareness of available resources.

- Device ownership and digital literacy gaps persist in low-income and rural populations

Solutions

- Statewide Digital Equity Plan includes strategies that apply to Louisville.

- Emphasis on affordable connectivity, workforce development, and digital literacy.

- Partnerships with community colleges, libraries, and nonprofits.

Things to consider

- Replicate state-local coordination model for broader digital access.

- Use community colleges and public libraries as training hubs.

- Leverage state funding streams for affordable internet and devices.

Source: Kentucky Digital Equity Plan (March 2024)

Kentucky Digital Equity Plan (Jan 2024)

Resource Hub

Oakland, CA

- Oakland's plan is rooted in equity-focused broadband expansion. The city uses digital equity **heat maps to identify underserved neighborhoods**, coordinates with telecom partners to build infrastructure, and provides **free access** through the **OakWiFi initiative**. The plan prioritizes connecting marginalized communities and emphasizes **cross-departmental data sharing** and transparency. Its structure includes measurable outcomes and ties into long-term housing and economic development efforts.

The City's Gap

- Major disparities in broadband adoption, particularly in Black and Latino communities.

- High housing insecurity complicating long-term connectivity.

Solutions

- Citywide OakWiFi initiative offering free public Wi-Fi in priority areas.

- Digital Navigators to provide individualized tech support.

- Broadband infrastructure improvements in partnership with schools and ISPs.

- Tech distribution campaigns and multilingual digital literacy training

Things to consider

- Consider pilot public Wi-Fi zones in parks, transit hubs, or public housing.

- Fund a Digital Navigator program embedded in community hubs.

- Build a centralized digital resource portal to guide residents to training, devices, and internet options.

- Integrate equity and housing justice into broadband planning.

Source: A Case for Digital Inclusion (PDF)

Broadband Master Plan

Atlanta, GA

- Atlanta addresses digital equity through an equity-driven lens, combining municipal initiatives with the state's Let's Connect Georgia plan. The city's programs focus on **expanding affordable high-speed internet access** in low-income areas, increasing access to devices, and **embedding digital training** in workforce development and education systems. Their strategic approach includes **data dashboards** to measure impact across racial and geographic lines.

The City's Gap

- Many residents lacked reliable broadband and computing devices.

- Disconnection disproportionately impacted Black and Latino residents.

- Lack of digital skills limited job and school access

Solutions

- Free community Wi-Fi zones and targeted device distribution in underserved neighborhoods.

- Digital literacy programs tailored for youth, seniors, and formerly incarcerated individuals.

- Partnership with universities and nonprofits to fund broadband infrastructure and digital training.

Things to consider

- Expand device distribution programs through schools and senior services.

- Leverage higher-ed partnerships for digital training and research.

- Create a tech skills program for justice-involved populations.

- Set outcome-based benchmarks for internet adoption and skill growth.

Source: Mayor's Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Digital Equity One-Pager PDF

Raleigh, NC

- Raleigh's Digital Impact Programs deploy **Digital Connectors** and **Ambassadors** who serve as **peer educators** in underserved communities. The city has expanded access to technology labs in public housing and offers **skill-building classes** targeting the seniors, low-income residents, and youth. With strong partnerships between libraries, housing authorities, and local nonprofits, Raleigh's programs focus on **long-term empowerment** through skills, device access, and mentorship.

The City's Gap

- Broadband was available in many areas but unaffordable or underused in low-income communities.

- Seniors and rural residents lacked digital literacy and support.

Solutions

- Digital Ambassador Program trains community leaders to teach digital skills.

- Broadband expansion funded by ARPA and city investment.

- Libraries offer free Chromebook and hotspot lending.

- Partnered with senior centers and churches to reach vulnerable populations.

Things to consider

- Start a Digital Ambassadors initiative using local youth or neighborhood leaders.

- Use ARPA or local funding to fill broadband gaps left by ISPs.

- Build a mobile tech lending library through public libraries or nonprofits.

- Develop senior-centered digital training using trusted community spaces.

Source: Digital Impact Programs

NC Digital Equity Plan Executive Summary

Minneapolis, MN

- Minneapolis has an established digital equity program that offers **public Wi-Fi hotspots**, low-cost broadband options, and **digital literacy training**. The program leverages **partnerships** with Hennepin County, schools, and nonprofit organizations to expand device access and digital education. The city's plan is **integrated** with Minnesota's statewide **Digital Opportunity Plan**, which provides additional resources and guidance.

The City's Gap

- Low-income residents and seniors face significant access and skills barriers.

- Disparities in access to digital education tools among students.

Solutions

- City provides free Wi-Fi hotspots and affordable broadband access.

- Partners with local schools, libraries, and nonprofits to offer digital skills training.

- Statewide plan aligns with local efforts, including funding and metrics.

Things to consider

- Adopt multi-level government partnerships to extend reach.

- Utilize existing community infrastructure for public Wi-Fi.

- Support digital inclusion through public schools and senior centers.

Chattanooga, TN

- Chattanooga's digital inclusion efforts are driven by **partnerships** between EPB (the city's municipal fiber provider), The Enterprise Center, and local schools. Flagship initiatives like Tech Goes Home and HCS EdConnect combine **free or low-cost gigabit internet** with **training, devices, and community engagement**. The city has positioned digital equity as both an education strategy and an economic development tool, leveraging its high-speed network to ensure universal access for students and families.

The City's Gap

- Connectivity barriers for low-income households without internet or devices.

- Lack of digital skills training in underserved neighborhoods.

Solutions

- Free gigabit internet for eligible students (HCS EdConnect).

- Tech Goes Home training + device program.

- Digital Access & Equity Committee coordinates citywide efforts.

Things to consider

- Expand programs beyond student-focused households.

- Strengthen outreach for non-English-speaking residents.

Madison, WI

- Madison addresses digital equity through a mix of city-led initiatives, **partnerships** with the **public library system**, and **targeted outreach** to seniors, low-income households, and historically underserved communities. The city's Digital Inclusion Task Force has laid out strategic recommendations, while events like Digital Inclusion Week raise awareness. Libraries play a central role in **device lending, skills workshops, and providing public internet access**.

The City's Gap

- Affordability barriers for low-income households.

- Limited digital literacy resources for older adults and marginalized communities.

Solutions

- Free public internet and device lending via libraries.

- Grants for senior digital literacy programs.

- Citywide awareness campaigns (Digital Inclusion Week).

Things to consider

- Expand affordable broadband programs in partnership with ISPs.

- Increase bilingual training and outreach.

Source: Digital Inclusion Task Force Final Report (2021)
City of Madison – Digital Inclusion Week & Resource Hub
Madison Public Library – Digital Inclusion Resources
City of Madison Senior Center – Digital Literacy Grants

Pittsburgh, PA

- Pittsburgh is tackling digital equity through the **Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition**, uniting city agencies, nonprofits, libraries, universities, and community groups to expand broadband access, device availability, and digital skills training. Initiatives like **refurbished device distribution via Computer Reach, library tech programs, and resources for underserved communities through United Way of Southwestern PA** aim to close gaps in affordability, literacy, and connectivity by 2030.

The City's Gap

- Affordability of broadband remains a core issue, where prices are often beyond what many households can reasonably pay

- Device access & supply is limited: about 1 in 5 households lack home internet access, and 10 % don't own a computer

- Digital literacy and a lack of skills or support prevents effective use even when access exists

Solutions

- Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition (PDEC) is a formal multi-sector partnership, led by city, county, and organizations like the Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance, Computer Reach, University of Pittsburgh, and Community Internet Solutions, formed to close the digital divide by 2030

Things to consider

- Build a formal digital equity coalition to coordinate city, nonprofit, library, and university efforts.

- Use libraries as central hubs for device lending, Wi-Fi access, and digital skills training.

- Pilot free community Wi-Fi and digital navigator programs to expand access and one-on-one support.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

200 E. Main St
Lexington, KY 40507

Master

File Number: 0261-26

File ID: 0261-26	**Type:** Committee Item	**Status:** Agenda Ready
Version: 1	**Contract #:**	**In Control:** Budget, Finance & Economic Development (BFED) Committee
		File Created: 03/20/2026
File Name: Review of Items Referred		**Final Action:**

Title: Review of Items Referred

Notes:

Sponsors:

Enactment Date:

Attachments: March - Items Referred

Enactment Number:

Deed #:

Hearing Date:

Drafter:

Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver-sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:

Text of Legislative File 0261-26

Title
Review of Items Referred

Budget, Finance & Economic Development Committee

	Referral Item	Referred By	Date Referred	Last Heard	Status	File ID
1	Review of the Exaction Program	Ellinger	August 28, 2018	November 28, 2023		1225-23
2	Robert H. Williams Cultural Center Funding	J. Brown	October 31, 2023	March 24, 2026	On current agenda	0856-24
3	Digital Accessibility	J. Brown	August 20, 2024	March 24, 2026	On current agenda	0643-25
4	Opioid Abatement Fund	J. Brown	April 30, 2025	March 24, 2026	On current agenda	
5	E911 Fund Revenue Sources	Beasley	May 6, 2025			
6	Local Impact Due to Federal Policy	J. Brown	July 3, 2025	September 16, 2025		0901-25
7	Community Benefits Agreeements	Morton	August 19, 2025			
8	Contractors Article VI. Code of Ordinances Review	Beasley	August 19, 2025			
9	LexArts Arts and Cultural Master Plan	J. Brown	December 2, 2025	February 24, 2026		0161-26
10	Infrastructure Funding Plan	J. Brown	December 2, 2025	January 27, 2026		0086-26
11	Housing Rehabilitation Program	Morton	January 13, 2026			
12	VisitLex Tourism Improvement District	J. Brown	February 17, 2026	February 24, 2026		0162-26
	Annual/Periodic Updates					
13	Monthly/Quarterly Financial Update	na	na	January 27, 2026	quarterly presentations, monthly reports	0160-26
14	Annual Comprehensive Financial Report	na	na	January 27, 2026	Annually in January	0085-26
15	Lexington Economic Outlook & Occupational Tax Forecast	J. Brown	December 3, 2019	February 18, 2025		0186-25
16	Fund Balance	na	na	October 21, 2025	Annually in October	1098-24
17	Economic Development Grants, JOBS, and Partnerships Update	J. Brown	January 29, 2019	September 16, 2025		0899-25
18	Industrial Development Authority Update	J. Brown	February 25, 2020	August 29, 2023		0868-23
19	Change Orders Report (per Resolution 620-2020)	J. Brown	December 3, 2020	October 21, 2025	For information only	0855-24
20	Technology Ecosystem Development	Sevigny	October 31, 2023	June 24, 2025		0642-25

Updated 3/12/26 KF