



Keep Us Connected!



San Francisco Has A Digital Equity Plan

“San Francisco is committed to building a supportive and inclusive digital society. As more City services become digital, the City has a responsibility to make sure all residents have access to all services. **Our vision is that all residents have full and equitable access to digital technology and its benefits so all communities can thrive, regardless of demographic.”**

From the [2019 Digital Equity Strategic Plan](#)



2021 Findings & Policy Recommendations: **Empowered San Francisco Technology Needs Assessment**

Conducted by Cecile Puretz (lead author)




City & County of San Francisco
Mayor's Office
on Disability



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
**Department of Disability
and Aging Services**

▶ [Link to Empowered SF Technology Needs Assessment website](#) and [PDF report](#)

Survey after
survey has
highlighted
both the *needs*
and the
solutions...

- 2021 Empowered San Francisco Technology Needs Assessment Report
 - 2022 Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment (draft)
 - 2021 Listening Sessions with Communities of Color
 - 2021 LGBTQ Older Adult Survey
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**Assistive
technology
(AT) and
training is
critical.**

Top AT needs:

- **Low-cost AT (53%)**
- **Training (45%)**
- **Information about AT options (39%)**
- **Access to free or low-cost repairs (30%)**

Especially for

- older adults;
- those experiencing chronic pain or mental health disability;
- low-income;
- SRO residents;
- Black, Latinx, AAPI communities;
- monolingual (Spanish or Cantonese)

Think of It As A Continuum of Learning

Community-based access to the internet, devices, training, assistive technology and technical support helps individuals learn the basics and stay connected, whether they remain in the community or move to skilled nursing. It also prepares care providers to help facilitate community-building.



Isolation And Loneliness Are Associated with Higher Rates of

- Chronic health conditions, including heart disease
- Weakened immune system
- Depression and anxiety
- Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease
- Admission to nursing homes or use of emergency services
- Death



The impact of social isolation in seniors persists well after pandemic restrictions have been lifted, according to the various studies, leading to “exacerbated problems of dementia, depression, suicide risk, and disrupted care.”



Keep Us Connected 2022 Campaign

(Pandemic Edition)

- The digital divide is real.
- The needs are clear.
- Solutions are available
- Lack of progress impacts older adults and people with disabilities – a full 25% of the City’s residents.

**Keep Us
connected**

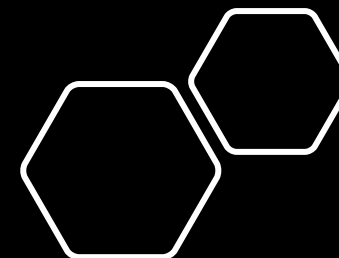
“The DFC Ask”

Recommended
from Dignity
Fund Allocation

Broadband Internet Access	300,000	
Digital Devices & Equipment	525,000	
Equip Sites for Hybrid Programming	75,000	75,000
Assistive Technology	200,000	
Technical Support	250,000	
Basic Training for New Users	200,000	
Outreach and Engagement	200,000	
Digital Literacy Staff	1,050,000	350,000
Digital Inclusion Pilots	500,000	
Language Access & Accessibility	100,000	
Program Evaluation	50,000	

TOTAL:

\$3.5 million



Learn more at

www.sfdignityfund.org

