



Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology June 2023 Executive Director's Report

Staff Updates

- Lauren Thompson, Digital Equity Program Manager
 - Overall Digital Equity Program oversight
 - Library program management in Norwalk, Meriden, Hartford
- Sarah Ullom-Minnich, Research Fellow
 - Program data collection and impact measurement
 - OWS – Tobin Center Impact Fellow, Peace Corps (Kosovo)

Digital Equity

- Planning Phase (\$736K) award toward development of state Digital Equity Plan that addresses barriers to technology availability, adoption, and effective use
- Informed by and in collaboration with agency partners (DEEP, OPM, OCC)
- Established Digital Equity Research Center with UCONN School of Public Policy
- Winter and spring engagement with state agencies, municipalities, libraries, and service providers to identify resources as well as barriers to adoption
- Spring focus groups with members of covered populations (aging, veterans, rural residents, members of ethnic and racial minorities, etc.) as well as direct service providers (DSS, DDS, DOL)
- Enlisting input from providers of digital equity services (connectivity, devices, training) for service mapping and funding eligibility: www.bit.ly/DigEquityPartners
- Partnering with UCONN on public data analysis, focus groups, and resident survey collection: www.bit.ly/CTDigEqSurvey
- Program design based on asset mapping, needs assessment, data analysis, and best practices by fall 2023; listening sessions tentative for September – October
- Final plan submission for \$17M in capacity funding by November 30

Commission Action Items

- Distribute resident survey using the resources available through the Survey Toolkit: www.bit.ly/CTDigEqSurveyToolkit
- Complete and share digital equity partner ("community anchor") survey
- All resources at CT.gov/DigitalEquity or write to DigitalEquity@CT.gov