Resolution No. 0843-21

October 26, 2021

Resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Development solicit applications from internet service providers for broadband expansion projects in areas of Franklin County eligible for the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program, and expressing Franklin County’s desire to partner with the state of Ohio on future initiatives aimed at improving broadband access and affordability for residents. (Commissioners)

WHEREAS, according to the Census’ most recent American Community Survey (ACS), 108,000 of Franklin County’s 522,000 households – one out of five – did not have a cable modem, digital subscriber line (DSL), or fiber Internet accounts in 2019; nearly 10 percent of all households in the county had internet access only through a cellular data plan; and nearly 9 percent of Franklin County households had no home broadband subscriptions of any kind in 2019, including a cellular data plan; and

WHEREAS, according to the Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition, households with incomes below $35,000 per year account for 25 percent of households in Franklin County but 70 percent of households without internet; Hispanic/Latino and Black residents lack access at much higher rates than white residents; and older adults lack access at higher rates than those under 65 years old; and

WHEREAS, affordable, reliable home broadband for every Franklin County household is imperative in order to achieve digital equity and ensure Franklin County residents have the tools necessary to support education, health, well-being, economic prosperity, and the ability to fully participate in society; and

WHEREAS, Amended House Bill 2 of the 134th Ohio General Assembly created the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program to expand broadband service in the state and provide grants to assist with expansion of broadband service to unserved and underserved residents of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, under Section 122.4050 of the Ohio Revised Code, a board of county commissioners may adopt a resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Development to solicit applications from broadband providers for Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program grants for eligible projects in the municipal corporations and townships of the county; and

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. 0843-21
ADOPTED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON October 26, 2021

[Signature]
[Title]
[Date]
Resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Development solicit applications from internet service providers for broadband expansion projects in areas of Franklin County eligible for the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program, and expressing Franklin County's desire to partner with the state of Ohio on future initiatives aimed at improving broadband access and affordability for residents. (Commissioners)

WHEREAS, eligible projects are projects to provide tier two broadband service access to residences in an unserved area or in a tier one area of a municipal corporation or township eligible for funding under the Broadband Expansion Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, tier one broadband service is a retail wireline or wireless broadband service capable of delivering internet access at speeds of at least ten but less than twenty-five megabits per second downstream and at least one but less than three megabits per second upstream and a tier one area is an area served by tier one broadband service but not tier two broadband service; and

WHEREAS, an unserved area is an area without access to tier one or tier two broadband service; and

WHEREAS, there are unserved or underserved areas in the county whose residents would benefit from the expansion of and improved access to tier two broadband service through more provider options, more discount broadband options, access to high quality digital devices, and digital literacy resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That this Board of Commissioners asks for state investment through the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant program in any eligible areas of Franklin County and expresses interest in future opportunities with the state to expand broadband access through more provider options, affordability programs, expanded access to high quality digital devices, and digital literacy resources.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. 0843-21 ADOPTED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON October 26, 2021

[Signature]
CLERK
Resolution No. 0843-21

Resolution requesting the Ohio Department of Development solicit applications from internet service providers for broadband expansion projects in areas of Franklin County eligible for the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program, and expressing Franklin County's desire to partner with the state of Ohio on future initiatives aimed at improving broadband access and affordability for residents. (Commissioners)

2. That pursuant to Section 122.4050 of the Ohio Revised Code, a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the Ohio Department of Development to solicit applications from broadband providers for Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program eligible projects in the areas identified in Section 1 of this Resolution.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. 0843-21 ADOPTED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON October 26, 2021

[Signature]

SIGNATURE SHEET FOLLOWS
SIGNATURE SHEET

Resolution No. 843-21     October 26, 2021

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENT SOLICIT APPLICATIONS FROM INTERNET SERVICE
PROVIDERS FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION PROJECTS IN AREAS OF
FRANKLIN COUNTY ELIGIBLE FOR THE OHIO RESIDENTIAL
BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM, AND EXPRESSING
FRANKLIN COUNTY’S DESIRE TO PARTNER WITH THE STATE OF
OHIO ON FUTURE INITIATIVES AIMED AT IMPROVING
BROADBAND ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS.

(COMM - Board of Commissioners)

Upon the motion of Commissioner John O’Grady, seconded by
Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce:

Voting:

Kevin L. Boyce, President
John O'Grady
Erica C. Crawley

Aye
Aye
Abstain

Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Ohio

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct
transcript of a resolution acted upon by the Board of County
Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio on the date noted above.

Brittany Razek
Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County, Ohio

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND
CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. 843-21
ADOPTED BY THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS ON OCTOBER 26, 2021

Brittany Razek
Clerk