



Hamilton

City Enrichment Fund (CEF) Digital Pilot Program 2024

Grants Sub-Committee | July 3, 2024

Digital Program – Historical Background

Digital Equity means everyone has access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet, digital literacy skills, and the necessary devices to participate fully in all aspects of life.

Digital development in Canada is underfunded, fragmented and unorganized, despite shared goals of connecting Canadians affordably and reliably to internet.

City of Hamilton prioritizes implementing programs to increase the digital capacity and capabilities of Hamiltonians and bridging the digital divides relating to infrastructure, equipment, access, equity, inclusion and ability.

In 2022, a new two-year Digital Pilot Program was approved as a part of the City Enrichment Fund to fund events and activities that support efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion, literacy and support digital infrastructure.

For the two-year Digital Pilot Program, \$150,000 in funding was approved from the CEF reserve, with \$75,000 allocated for each pilot year.

Digital Program Highlights

- Partnership with R.R. McCann Family Foundation, providing additional funding to successful CEF Digital Programs
 - A total of \$100,000 to be disbursed over the two-year pilot
- Increased communication and community outreach in Year 2
- Total of 18 applications received, 13 successful applications funded \$104,099 over 2 years.
- 10 out of 13 projects received A rating.
- 160% increase in number of applicants and 108% increase in funding from Year 1 to Year 2.



Digital Program – Promotional Efforts



WHAT IS DIGITAL EQUITY?

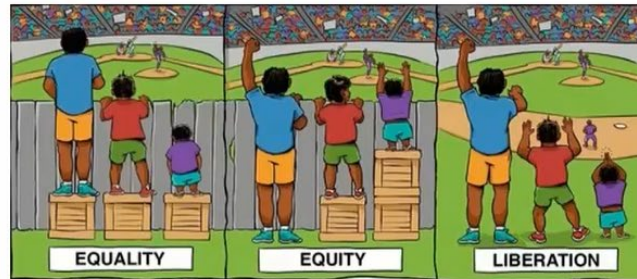


Image Credit: A collaboration between Center for Story-based Strategy & Interaction Institute for Social Change.

- There are 2 types of digital exclusion experienced in Hamilton:
 1. **Urban-rural gap:** disparities in access to broadband internet in many parts of rural and remote Hamilton.
 2. **Digital inequity/inequality:** gap between those who have affordable internet access, the digital literacy/skills to use modern information / communication applications, access to devices versus those who do not.

Digital Program – Promotional Efforts

CEF | Digital Program Open to all Applicants

FR Frerotte, Rebecca
 To
 Cc Arora, Jasleen; Carvalho, Andrea
 Fri 12/1/2023 9:47 AM

City Enrichment Fund - Digital.pdf
 322 KB

Open PDFs in Adobe Acrobat

Good morning,

We are now midway through the 2024 City Enrichment Fund (CEF) intake. This is a gentle reminder that our Digital Pilot Program is back for another year and is open to applicants who typically submit applications in other program areas. Applicants are eligible to submit an application in the Digital area as well as their typical program area.

The Digital Area Handbook is attached, and can be found through the [CEF webpage](#). Please review the handbook for specific eligibility and stream objectives.

Please make sure to select "**Digital – City Enrichment Fund**" when applying for project/program under Digital Stream.

BACK FOR YEAR 2! DIGITAL EQUITY STREAM

- Supports the planning, delivery and administration of a variety of initiatives that bridge the digital gap.
 - Digital Gap: (a) disparities in access to broadband/internet in rural and remote Hamilton (b) Lack of affordable internet access, access to devices and digital literacy to use them.
- Ensures all City of Hamilton residents have access to the resources, opportunities and skills needed to thrive in a digital world.
- Invests in partners who will deliver impactful programs that:
 - build digital literacy skills,
 - facilitating access to internet service, technological devices and digital programming.

INFORMATION SESSIONS & DROP INS

For more info, please join:

Digital Stream Information Session
 15th November 2023 from 1-2pm.

This session will introduce the City Enrichment Fund and provide an overview of the Digital Program. The presentation will cover eligibility, submission requirements, timelines and a Q&A. You can register by emailing jasleen.arora@hamilton.ca.

For specific questions, you can also join the Drop In Sessions:

Monday, November 20, 1 to 2pm Online

Meeting ID: 226 489 063 944

Passcode: rCn5sR

Or Call in (Audio Only):

+1 647-749-1649 Phone Conference ID: 421 543 60#

Monday, December 4, 1 to 2pm Online

Meeting ID: 277 164 187 644

Passcode: W5Dk3v

Or Call in (Audio only)

+1 647-749-1649 Phone Conference ID: 735 294 38#

Digital Program Results

Measure	2023	2024	Increase
Total Number of Applicants	5	13	160%
Total Number of Successful Applicants	4	9	125%
New Applicants	5	10	100%
Returning Applicants	0	3	300%
Total Funding Request	\$50,078	\$174,850	249%
Total CEF Funding	\$33,809	\$70,290	108%
Foundation Funding	\$22,500	Pending assessment	N/A

Digital – Funded Programs

Some examples of successful programs funded through the program include:



TRE FRANCOPH
HAMILTON

Digital Training Course to French-speaking Hamilton Youth, aiming to equip them with tools they need to create digital content in French.

IWC

Digital workshops, training sessions, resources, one-on-one support for senior racialized immigrant women aged 55 and above, focusing on enhancing internet literacy, digital tool usage, content creation, online business development etc.



Provide tenants of 412 Barton (new affordable housing build geared to Black and Indigenous older adults aged 55+) with digital infrastructure and develop digital skills by providing equipment and Wi-Fi in common areas.



Four-day workshop based on Train the Trainer model, for five newcomer (low-income) artists to develop digital skills and create blogs or websites for marketing and selling their artwork online.



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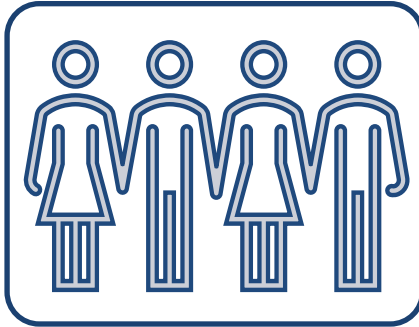
Providing youth with technology and training to develop in-demand sports digital skills such as access to software and training to do video editing to build digital portfolios.



Workshops for Students Grade 5-8 to learn digital skills including foundational computer programming concepts and application of digital technologies in earth, space sciences, geometry and more.

Digital Program Impact

The pilot program was able to:



Demonstrate reduced disparities in digital access barriers faced by equity seeking groups and systemically underserved communities.



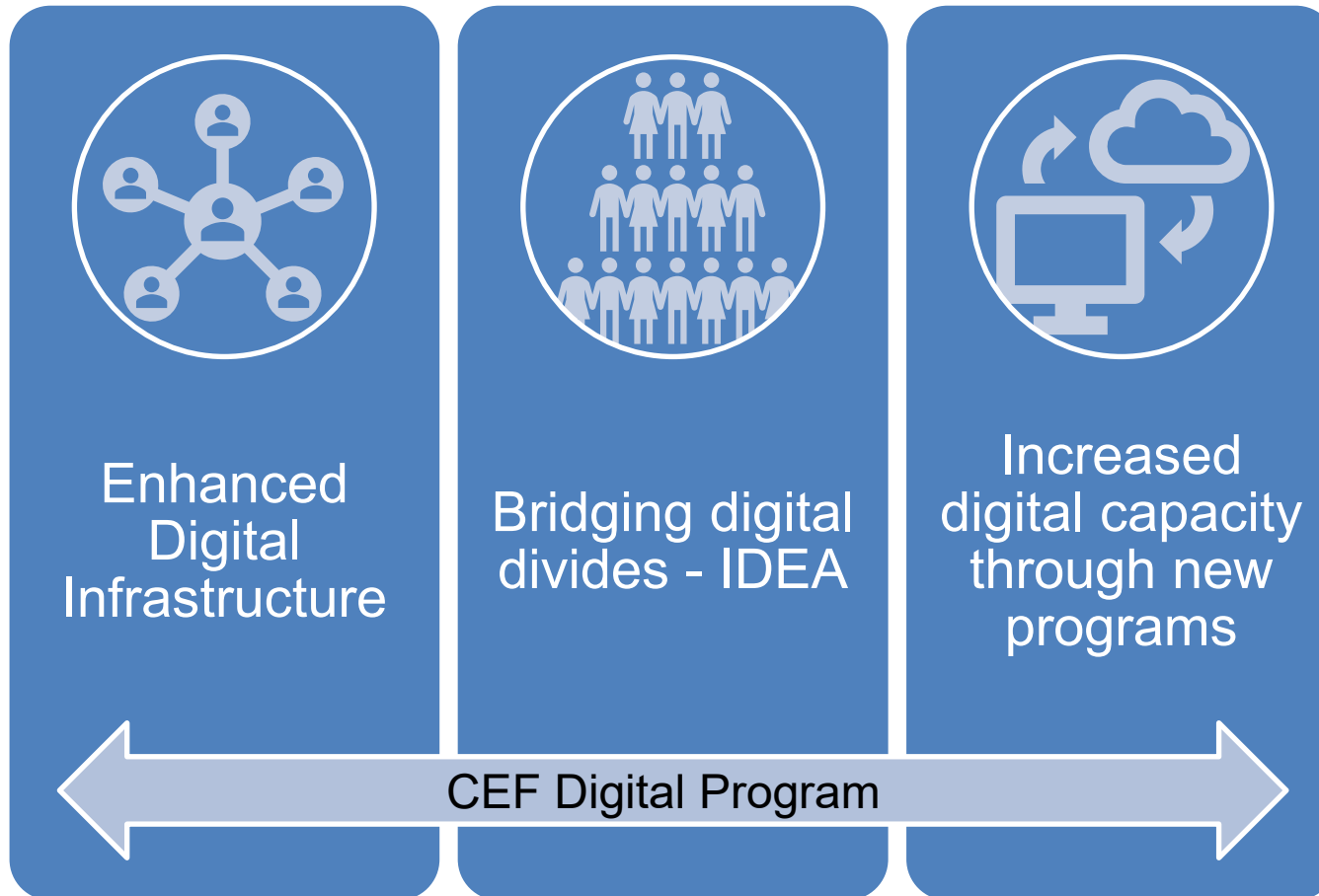
Build resident digital literacy skills, facilitate access to internet services, technological devices and digital programming.



Establish collaboration, foster innovation and shared purpose through partnership with R.R. McCann Family Foundation.

Digital Program Impact

- Supports City's Priorities as listed in Economic Development Action Plan 2021-2025:



Digital Program Next Steps





THANK YOU