Governor’s Task Force on Broadband

Broadband Access & Policy Implications for Minnesota’s Disability Community

Alicia Munson & Maren Christenson
Who We Are

MULTICULTURAL AUTISM ACTION NETWORK

MAAN
Theory of Change
Who We Are

The Arc

Minnesota
Programmatic Values

Human & Civil Rights
Self-Advocacy & Self Direction
Equity & Belonging
Racial & Disability Justice
Background

- Section 508 of the Rehab Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act
- Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology
Broadband Access & the Disability Community
Barriers & Challenges to Access

- 54% of adults living with a disability use the internet, compared with 81% of adults without disabilities (Pew Research Center)
- 41% of adults living with a disability have broadband at home, compared with 69% of those without a disability (Pew Research Center)
- 67% of disabled Americans ages 18 to 64 own a desktop or laptop computer, compared with 84% those without a disability (Pew Research Center)
Barriers & Challenges to Access

**MAP 1**
Number of People With Disabilities by County, 2010–2014

**MAP 2**
Percent of People With Disabilities, by County, 2010-2014

**MAP 3**
25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload - as of 4/1/2021
Barriers & Challenges to Access

- Geographic location
- Poverty
- Misunderstanding of disability & accessibility
- Lack of technology & accessible user information
- Interrupted access
- Lack of access to decision-making processes
Policy Recommendations

- Office of Broadband Development
- Interagency collaboration
- Governor’s Task Force on Broadband
- Broadband Development Grant Program
- K-12 Connect Forward Initiative
- Grants to supplement tech access
- Ongoing tech support
Critical Thinking

- Any policy solution that improves access for Minnesotans generally will improve access for people who have disabilities; all policy is disability policy

- Is disability integrated into all decisions/recommendations made by this group?
Critical Thinking

- How is this group getting input/feedback directly from members of the disability community?

- From your perspective, how can we support enhanced engagement/collaboration with people who have disabilities?

- What policy recommendations do you have for us, that could be championed by the disability community?
Q & A
Contact Us

Maren Christenson
- info@maanmn.org

Alicia Munson
- aliciamunson@arcminnesota.org
Thank You!