

Buncombe County Government

Laptop Surplus
February 20, 2024



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Overview

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- As Buncombe County refreshes employee laptops, laptops are stored in surplus and sold via GovDeals per Buncombe County Policy.
- Land of Sky Regional Council has identified access to devices as a primary issue for broadband adoption and digital equity.
- Buncombe County sees an opportunity to partner with Land of Sky to increase access to devices while efficiently disposing of surplus laptops.
- To enact the program, a resolution is required to direct laptops to Land of Sky rather than the current adopted surplus procedure (i.e., GovDeals).

Request

- Commissioners approve the resolution authorizing the County Manager to enter into an interlocal agreement to donate laptops to Land of Sky for a defined period.



Digital Equity Issues

- Broadband access and accessibility vary across Buncombe County.
- Discussions frequently center on access to infrastructure to access the internet (e.g., fiber).
- However, accessibility issues remain and impact broadband adoption.
- Primary issues for the lag relate to access to devices and subscription costs.
- 2021 census data shows Buncombe County has over 10% of the population with no access to devices.



Land of Sky Device Refurbishment Program

- **Purpose:** Provide refurbished devices to individuals without devices in order to enable their access to internet services (e.g., telehealth, job training, higher education)
- **Objectives:**
 - Refurbish devices and divert e-waste from the landfill
 - Increase access to skills training and job seeking
 - Improve access to governmental programs and services
 - Provide access to higher education opportunities
 - Expand access to telehealth opportunities
- **Past work**
 - Land of Sky tested distribution and connected and distributed more than 120 laptops to organizations in the served region.
 - Organizations that Land of Sky distributed to include Buncombe County organizations like HACA, Operation Gateway, YTL, and My Daddy Taught Me That.



Land of Sky Device Refurbishment Program

- **Process**
 - Land of Sky, throughout this process, will act as a HUB and Liaison to organizations with the goal of working to close the digital divide.
- **Device ID**
 - Devices will be marked with ID Labels and color-coded to ensure they stay for organizations within Buncombe County.
 - For partner organizations that work in multiple counties, Land of Sky will work with these partners to ensure devices marked for Buncombe County stay within the county.
- **Data**
 - Land of Sky will keep track of the organizations that receive devices.
 - In order to assess the community's digital equity needs, Land of Sky will work with partner organizations to record why participants need these devices.
 - LOS will also work with partners to capture device recipient demographic data.
- **Program Goal:** 700 devices refurbished regionally per year.



Current State

Laptop Refresh and Revenue:

- Revenue from GovDeals sales: \$17k-\$23k per year
- Laptops refreshed annually: 450-500

Buncombe County Surplus Personal Property Policy:

- When a County department determines that such personal property is no longer functional for governmental purposes the property will be offered to County departments or disposed of in accordance with NCGS Ch. 160A, Art. 12.
- All such items of personal property will be offered for public auction via an online auction vendor without further notice.



Request for Board Action

Recommendation:

- Consider resolution directing staff to donate all surplus laptops devices to LOS for the next three (3) calendar years
 - Authority: Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 153A-176 and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-280, the County may transfer to another governmental unit within the United States, a sister city, or a nonprofit organization any personal property, including supplies, materials, and equipment, that the governing board deems to be surplus, obsolete, or unused.
 - Property purchased using Federal funds shall follow the procedures required by the funding agency for disposal

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Appendix



Donations to Governmental Units

- **Donations of personal property to other governmental units (GS 160A-280)**
 - (a) A city may donate to another governmental unit within the United States, a sister city, or a nonprofit organization incorporated by (i) the United States, (ii) the District of Columbia, or (iii) one of the United States, any personal property, including supplies, materials, and equipment, that the governing board deems to be surplus, obsolete, or unused. The governing board of the city shall post a public notice at least five days prior to the adoption of a resolution approving the donation. The resolution shall be adopted prior to making any donation of surplus, obsolete, or unused personal property. For purposes of this section a sister city is a city in a nation other than the United States that has entered into a formal, written agreement or memorandum of understanding with the donor city for the purposes of establishing a long term partnership to promote communication, understanding, and goodwill between peoples and to develop mutually beneficial activities, programs, and ideas. The agreement or memorandum of understanding establishing the sister city relationship shall be signed by the mayors or chief elective officer of both the donor and recipient cities.
 - (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "governmental unit" shall have the same meaning as defined by G.S. 160A-274(a) and shall include North Carolina charter schools.
 - (c) The authority granted to a city under this section is in addition to any authority granted under any other provision of law. (2007-430, s. 1; 2009-141, ss. 1, 2, 3.)

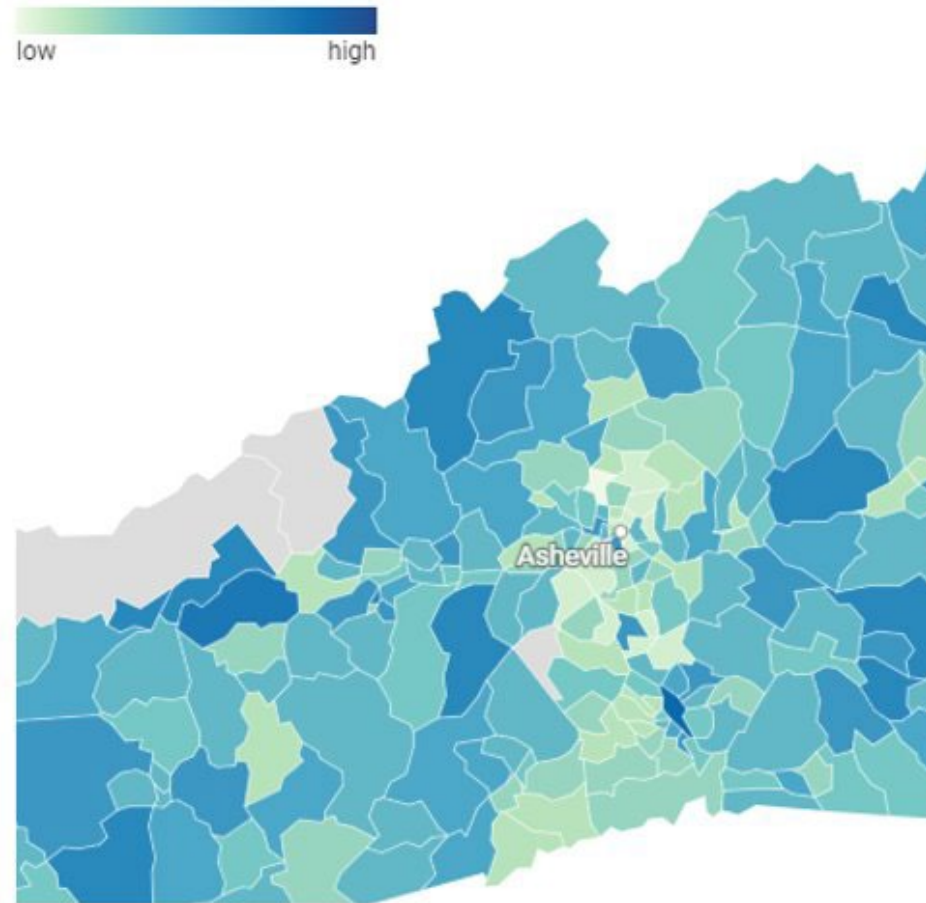


Digital Equity Solutions

- **Increase Device Access:**
 - Device Refurbishment Program with Land of Sky Regional Council
 - Land of Sky Pilot Program with Re-entry populations
- **Decrease Costs:**
 - ACP Adoption
 - Federally funded subsidy for internet access.
 - ACP outreach efforts find that many people signing up for the program don't have a device to use.
 - ACP Program may be sunset by the Federal Government.
- **Increase Proficiency:**
 - NCDIT Digital Equity Grant
 - Increase device access
 - Increase Technical assistance
 - Increase outreach



Device Access



Device Access by Census tracts
(https://www.datawrapper.de/_/zfOZH/)

Map: RG • Source: Purdue Center for Regional Development • Get the data • Created with |

