

ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

Tools, strategies and resources to empower communities and improve lives across Missouri

How can I partner to address issues like broadband in my community?



FORM A WORKING GROUP.

Community change takes people power. MU Extension county engagement and community development specialists are ideally situated to initiate local efforts. Try to make your working group diverse and representative of your community. Involve youth, professionals, retired persons and representatives from key anchor institutions, nonprofits and government. Set a monthly meeting time and location to hold yourselves accountable. Grow this group as more people become interested.



BEGIN WITH AN ASSESSMENT.

You can use the assessment tools on the All Things Missouri platform to learn more about issues in your community such as broadband. (Scroll down to the Broadband Access Story Map to learn more.) You can decide to focus on issues within a specific category, like the economy, or look more broadly across issues.

allthingsmissouri.org



TAKE AN INVENTORY.

Talk to people in your community about what's working well and what needs improvement. Take an inventory of organizations, clubs and anchor institutions like schools and places of worship. Schedule a time to meet with each of these groups and hear their concerns and ideas.



PRIORITIZE AND FOCUS BASED ON WHAT YOU LEARN.

Select one to three broadband-related issues that were identified through both the assessment process and your conversations with the community. Start with your end goal in mind and build a path of strategies that will get you there. Make sure your goals are SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

Goal examples:

Economy

Provide free public wifi in the downtown area by July of 2021.

Education

Ensure that all public schools in our school district have access to internet speeds of at least 25mbps by 2022.

Health

Increase the number of local mental health providers who also provide telehealth services by 50% in two years.



EXPLORE CONTACTS & NEW DATA SOURCES.

All Things Missouri District Explorer tools provide other key contacts at state and local levels. The Missouri Broadband Access: Next Steps page offers other resources and information. The University of Missouri System Engagement portal shows partnership opportunities with all four universities.

allthingsmissouri.org/district-explorer

allthingsmissouri.org/missouri-broadband-access-next-steps

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