

ConnectSTL Purpose

To establish a digitally inclusive community where every resident enjoys equal access to opportunities, resources, and the transformative power of technology. As a coalition, our aim is to focus on unity and collaboration and together we strive to dismantle digital barriers, cultivate robust collaborations, and narrow the digital divide. We seek to establish a sustainable model that encourages participation, inclusivity, and continuous improvement.

ConnectSTL Principles

Inclusive Language and Representation

Ensure our mission and communications employ language that resonates with everyone. Strive for diverse representation, recognizing the unique needs of our community.

Community Engagement and Input

Engage the community across all educational levels and ages. Strive to have representation in all aspects of the coalition. Seek input through thoughtful communication, ensuring end users play a pivotal role in shaping our efforts.

Clear and Defined Goals

Concentrate on closing the digital divide with clear and defined goals. Begin with community needs and work backward to fashion solutions that genuinely make a difference.

Broadband Accessibility for All

Work towards making broadband access available to every resident. Develop a robust funding plan to allow our work to endure and ensure resources flow efficiently to close the digital gap.

Human-Centered Approach

Implement a solution design process that centers around people. Track individual and community benefits, ensuring our efforts meet the tangible needs of the community.

Partnership and Collaboration

Encourage meaningful collaborations through fostering partnerships. Prioritize the common agenda, but leave room for agents to focus on their strengths. Bring together digital equity leaders committed to sharing responsibility and ownership.

Agility and Continuous Improvement

Remain agile and adaptable, with participation as a priority. Create a feedback model that allows the coalition to evolve through continuous improvement, responding to the dynamic needs of the community.

Data for Action and Impact

Incorporate the use of data to drive decisions, focus our activities and measure performance. Implement a review process that meets the needs of various stakeholders.

ConnectSTL Promise

In order to realize a vision of St. Louis as a place where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, the ConnectSTL coalition will emphasize a collaborative approach. By leveraging the **Collective Impact** model, we strive to collaborate across sectors to drive a common agenda but still leave room for individual actors to participate. This commitment to each other becomes a rallying call for the community to thrive collectively. By acknowledging the importance of regional collaboration over internal competition, the ConnectSTL Digital Equity Coalition becomes a beacon for meaningful change, championing digital access as a means to uplift the entire community.