Resilient Network Models
Goals

Today we will look at community wireless networks around the world. Each network successfully uses a different revenue and sustainability model.

Our goal is to choose or combine models to find sustainability plans for community wireless network in Detroit’s Islandview, North End and Southwest neighborhoods.
Though the Equitable Internet Initiative, Digital Stewards will:

- Co-design of networks
- Training support for local residents to install and maintain networks
- Hardware, software, and licensing
- “Backhaul” or “bandwidth” (data/internet sources)
- Controller or monitoring platform
- Maintenance and troubleshooting support
- Local servers and hosting
- Basic cyber-insurance
Finding a long-term plan

What are network costs and needs?

- Hardware, software, and licensing
- Controller or monitoring platform
- “Backhaul” or “bandwidth” (data/internet sources)
- Maintenance and troubleshooting (help line, local volunteers, hired staff)
- Local server stacks and hosting (optional)
- Basic cyber-insurance
Finding a long-term plan

What are sources of revenue and support?

- Grants and donations
- Fee for service
- Membership fees or contributions
- Crowdfunding
- Volunteer time and labor
- Advertising revenue
- Subsidies (Lifeline and ConnectHome)
Organizationally supported (DCTP and CassCo Network)

Sustainability resources:
- Grants and donations
- Fiscal sponsorship by organization
- Organizational programming built around network (workforce development, economic development)
- Crowdfunding for specific initiatives
- Agreements with local ISPs
- Maintenance by trainees/stewards

Key requirements:
- Mission/program alignment
- Fiscal and project management capacity
- Fundraising capacity
Cooperative or Commons (guifi, AWMN)

Sustainability resources:
- Volunteer workforce
- User contributions
- Cooperative bandwidth purchasing and organizing
- Principles of the commons
- Crowdfunding for specific initiatives
- Grant funding for specific initiatives

Key requirements:
- Strong base of self-organizing, tech-savvy volunteers
- Financial or in-kind support from small business, local government, organizations
- Entrepreneurial, self-starting, cooperative spirit
Government provided: Ile Sans Fils, ConnectHome

Sustainability resources:
- Franchising
- Subsidies (Lifeline, federal, state, or local budget allocations, e.g. RISE)
- Tax incentives
- Municipal interagency support

Key requirements:
- Policy imperatives
- Political will to support connectivity as a base for other priorities (economic development)
What is the network for?

- Community-based preparedness and resilience
- Economic development
- Community development
- Internet access and digital opportunity
- Digital learning platform
- Open government or advocacy
- What else?
Questions and Discussion