Building Digital Communities: Pilot

➤ One in five Americans do not use the internet.

➤ Online interactions are becoming a daily necessity for individuals and organizations.

Building Digital Communities: Pilot recognizes the importance of information technology access and use for all communities. The Project supports and documents the efforts of local leadership teams in nine pilot communities intent on increasing digital inclusion.

The work is based on **Building Digital Communities: A Framework for Action**, created by IMLS.

Convening Stakeholders

Digital inclusion is a complex, community-wide goal requiring a coalition of local government, education institutions, libraries, community-based organizations, business and residents. The first step recommended in the framework is to "Convene Stakeholders."

OCLC has partnered with the University of Illinois Center for Digital Inclusion, Waymark Systems, to provide stakeholder engagement expertise and guidance. The project is providing intense support to two communities.

The heroes of this project are the local leadership teams. Dodge City, Kansas, is the first pilot location for the stakeholder alignment process, working with the team of **Cathy Reeves**, Dodge City Public Library Director, **Jane Longmeyer**, Dodge City Public Relations Manager, and **Greta Clark**, Professor and Director of Multicultural Education at Dodge City Community College.

"*They worked with us as a team to make the stakeholder engagement process a learning process for us and an opportunity for the community to discuss digital inclusion and begin creating a plan that we as a community can actually make happen.*" (Cathy Reeves)

Online Resources

To support the pilot communities and further the knowledge base, OCLC WebJunction is hosting online resources, including:

➤ Broadband Rhode Island's Stakeholder Engagement Experience: a case study

➤ Broadband Adoption Toolkit: a webinar

➤ Digital Inclusion Blog for current news

For more resources, visit: **oc.lc/digitalinclusion**

Imagine the impact if *all* your community members had access to and knew how to use the internet and technology devices?

We need libraries and librarians to lead community-wide efforts to increase information technology access and use.

About the Project

Building Digital Communities: Pilot is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

For more information about the project, visit **oc.lc/bdcpilot**