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Boston City Council Approves \$2 Million Investment in Tech Goes Home Through American Rescue Plan Act Spending Package

BOSTON, July 18 – The Boston City Council voted unanimously last week to approve a new, \$2 million investment in [Tech Goes Home](#) (TGH), a Boston-based non-profit working to address digital inequity, as part of the City of Boston’s plan to expend remaining relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

“This is a transformative investment that will allow Tech Goes Home to reach even further into communities across Boston and connect those in need with the tools and resources they require to participate in the digital world,” said TGH Chief Advocacy Officer Marvin Venay. “The COVID-19 pandemic shined a spotlight on the impact of digital inequity, and we are grateful to City Councilor Bok, who advocated for this funding, as well as Councilors Flynn, Mejia, and every member of the Council who recognized the critical importance of advancing digital equity efforts as part of a just, equitable, and sustainable recovery.”

TGH works in partnership with a diverse network of community-based organizations in Boston to provide learners - ranging in age from 3 to 96 - with high-quality digital devices, reliable internet, and tailored digital skills training led by trusted community instructors. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TGH worked with instructors and partner organizations to make many of its courses fully virtual, helping meet the burgeoning need in Boston while keeping learners and instructors safe.

With the \$2 million in ARPA funding, TGH will be able to engage 100+ new community-based organizations across Boston to host TGH programming, expanding access for potentially thousands of Boston residents. In addition, TGH will increase staff capacity and support for instructors, enabling them to connect individuals and families in Boston with new federal programs offering affordable, reliable internet access; in total, TGH expects to reach 4,500 households per year – 60,000 - 70,000 people over four years – in Boston with reliable, affordable internet for the long term.

“Internet is becoming as essential a public utility as water and sewer,” said Councilor Bok, Chair of the COVID-19 Recovery Committee. “Still, too many residents are without internet access and are missing out on school, public meetings, critical information, and key services. I am so pleased that ARPA funds will be used by Tech Goes Home to get more Boston residents online and begin closing the digital divide.”

City Council President Ed Flynn, who has been a long-time champion of digital equity efforts, said, “ensuring residents - particularly our working class families, immigrant neighbors, communities of color, and our seniors - have access to affordable and reliable internet is critical as services become increasingly dependent on the internet. I’m proud to work with Tech Goes Home on addressing issues of digital equity, and I know that this additional funding from the City will enable Tech Goes Home to further close the digital divide. I look forward to continuing working together.”

"This is a major win for our city. We have been working since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that every household in Boston has access to the internet, and this recent victory gets us one step closer. I want to thank Tech Goes Home for their persistent advocacy in this space," said Councilor Julia Mejia, who has worked alongside TGH to expand digital access during her time on the City Council.

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About TGH

Tech Goes Home is a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the digital inequities that pose a significant barrier to opportunity and success for thousands of students, workers, and families in Greater Boston and beyond. Working in partnership with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, Tech Goes Home provides curated support - including access to digital devices, network connectivity, and robust training in how to utilize digital resources - to help individuals and families pursue economic mobility, support academic achievement, access critical resources, and engage with their community and loved ones. Since TGH was founded in 2000, more than 50,000 people have graduated from a TGH course. You can learn more about Tech Goes Home’s work, and ways to become involved, at techgoeshome.org.