



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Greenbelt Branch Library

COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ONLINE ONLY

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, the Council Meeting will be held online and is planned to be cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed to www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv.

Resident participation:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82645488974?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82645488974?pwd=THhYRWU1VWt4QW9semJKekk4a1ZjQT09)

[pwd=THhYRWU1VWt4QW9semJKekk4a1ZjQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82645488974?pwd=THhYRWU1VWt4QW9semJKekk4a1ZjQT09)

OR

Join By phone: (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID: 826 4548 8974

Passcode: 424854

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use Video Relay Services (VRS) at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

**Wednesday, August 4, 2021
8:00 PM**

Work Session Packet

**Greenbelt Branch Library
Suggested Action:**

Agenda

- Introductions**

- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

[PGCMLS Foundation Digital Equity Prospectus.pdf](#)



Digital Equity in Prince George's County

Prince George's County's public libraries are in a unique position to bridge the digital divide in our county. For the past 25 years, library cardholders have used public computers and internet, taken computer classes, and received computer assistance from library staff. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the great importance of the internet in our daily lives, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is eager to partner with you to advance digital equity in the community.

The digital divide in Prince George's County is prominent. In 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimated 36.11% of the county did not have access to broadband at home. With the pandemic and economic crisis, it is estimated the numbers have significantly increased.

Prince Georgians need access to computers and the internet to start a job search, apply for jobs, attend school, monitor their child's progress in school, access unemployment benefits, and find community assistance.

Library customers tell us every day that their computer or laptop is broken, they were laid off and therefore do not have computer access, they cannot afford to purchase WiFi, they do not qualify for broadband assistance programs, and they do not have enough broadband in their homes for multiple computers/users. Additionally, special programs like Comcast's Internet Essentials are not accessible for many families who may have fallen behind on bills due to unemployment and economic hardship.

Please consider supporting PGCMLS via the PGCMLS Foundation for digital equity in Prince George's County. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could make a difference to bridge the gap.

For additional information, please contact Shelley O'Brien at shelley.obrien@pgcmls.info (240) 687-6194 or Nicholas Brown at Nicholas.Brown@pgcmls.info (301) 699-3500.





American Rescue Plan Act Funds can be used to Advance Digital Equity in Partnership with PGCMLS

PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization.

The Library helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. PGCMLS serves the 915,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, and pop-up services throughout the community. Multilingual programs, services, and outreach activities serve booklovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike.

How can your city work with PGCMLS to bring digital equity to Prince George's County?

By supporting PGCMLS with your cities American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA) funding, PGCMLS can add technology resources to branch libraries for public access. Your funding will be dedicated to resources for your local community and specific library branch(es).

ARPA Funding Opportunities

\$12,000

Mobile device management system for three years to manage, deploy, and maintain borrowable technology for your branch(es).

\$40,000

100 iPads with WiFi for two years. Ideal for children and senior citizens to use.

\$75,000

100 Chromebooks with WiFi (with warranty and replacement insurance) for two years. To be checked out by library cardholders for 6 weeks each.

\$115,000

To hire additional staff for two years to implement additional technology and teach technology classes at the library.

\$345,000

The COMPLETE PACKAGE for MY LIBRARY

200 Chromebooks, 200 Ipad, two years of WiFi service, IT staffing (with fluency in English, Spanish, and other languages specific to immediate community needs) to teach classes and be available for questions during library hours.

Join PGCMLS in creating a vision for the future where anyone in Prince George's County who needs to borrow a laptop can visit their local library and check one out. That digital equity means jobs and education for everyone in our communities.

"I am constantly amazed how the library is reinventing itself to meet our needs as a population in pandemic."

-Grateful PGCMLS cardholder

