

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Economic Development

CBQ NO.: 97

REQUESTED BY: (District 3) José Velásquez

DATE REQUESTED: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:34 AM

DATE POSTED:

REQUEST:

Could you please break down the funding proposed in the FY26-27 budget for digital navigation services, including personnel costs, marketing/outreach budget, and community funding opportunities? Could you list which department provides digital navigation and equity-related funding to the community?

RESPONSE:

Austin Economic Development's Community Technology Division (AED) Community Technology Division expands public access to technology, enhances digital literacy, and ensures all Austinites can participate in today's connected economy. The division's FY26-27 proposed budget is \$1,299,008 (4 FTEs) and includes:

- \$543,930 for 4 FTEs and associated personnel costs.
- \$400,000 for the Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs), a grant program focused on digital equity, specifically promoting internet access, device access, and digital skills training.
- \$300,000 for a contract with Austin Free-Net that provides digital literacy skills training.
- \$55,015 in supporting program costs.
- \$4,563 for outreach efforts.