



GTOPs Goals and 2018 Changes

The Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) is a grant administered by the Digital Inclusion Program directed at improving the community's ability to fully participate in the digital society. GTOPs offers individual grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Grant applications are reviewed and assessed by a panel of qualified community representatives appointed by the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission, which has final approval over recipient selection. In FY 2016, GTOPs grants were awarded to nine organizations.

GTOPs Vision

A community where all citizens have access to the facilities and the necessary skills to participate in an emerging digital society.

GTOPs Mission

To provide matching grant funds to Austin organizations for projects that create digital opportunities and foster digital inclusion.

GTOPs Goals

- Provide public access to computers and information technology, especially among underserved segments of our community.
- Provide information technology literacy, education, and training.
- Use information and communication technologies in innovative ways to serve the Austin community.
- Address the 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan Goals:
 - Increase internet usage
 - Reduce barriers to digital access
 - Support digital literacy training
 - Promote access to technology devices
 - Promote accommodations for non-english speakers and persons with disabilities

Changes to GTOPs 2018

This year, an additional step will be added to the application process. Letters of Interest will be required of interested applicants, to be submitted by October 27th. Staff will internally review the letters and communicate with the interested applicants on how their program might or might not fit with GTOPs goals.

Also new this year, refurbished computers will be available to supplement the financial awards granted through GTOPs.

Finally, changes to the application are in the process of being made. These changes will be presented at the October CTTC meeting.

How to Apply

The GTOPs application process has changed for the 2018 cycle. There are three steps now: Submission of the Letter of Interest, completion of the mandatory online training, and application.

Letter of Interest

If you are interested in applying for GTOPs 2018 funding, please [contact us](#) with a Letter in Interest. The letter (no more than two pages) will be **due by October 27th**, and should include your:

- Agency's legal name
- City of Austin Vendor Code
- Name and contact information
- Executive Director's full name, email address, and primary phone number (with area code)
- Brief description of your organization and its activities
- Description of the program for which you would like to apply for funding
- Description of the key client base this program would serve (e.g. Hispanic, low-income, youth 0-12, elderly 65+ etc.)
- Description of how this program would be a good fit for GTOPs funding

[If you do not have a vendor code, it is very easy to [register as a new vendor](#).]

Mandatory Online Training

Once you have submitted your Letter of Intent and heard back from us, please complete the [Mandatory Online Orientation for GTOPs 2018](#). Certification of completion is due December 1st 2017.

Application

Organizations choosing to apply for GTOPs 2018 must create a new application in the [grant management website](#) and complete the application by **December 1st**.

Volunteer to be a Grant Reviewer

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Be a resident within the greater Austin area (which includes extra-territorial jurisdiction) for a minimum of one (1) year
- Have a minimum of five (5) years experience in technology, education, neighborhood planning, community development or other area relevant to GTOPs.

Application

[Apply here](#). Once your application is submitted, you will be asked to provide a digital copy of your **resume or curriculum vitae by October 1st**

Overview of GTOPs Schedule

Key dates in the application process

- **October 13th 2017:** Community meeting to discuss the GTOPs 2018 goals and process
- **October 27th 2017:** Letters of Interest for GTOPs 2018 due
- **October 30th – November 3rd 2017:** Staff review of Letters of Intent and communication with interested parties
- **November 6th – December 1st 2017:** Grant application window. Full and completed applications and certification of completion of the [Mandatory Online Orientation for GTOPs 2018](#) must be completed by **December 1st**
- **December 4th – 8th:** Staff review of applications for completeness

Key dates in the grant review process

[Dates](#) for required attendance should you be appointed to the grant review committee:

- **November 8th:** CTTC is presented with grant reviewer applications and votes to select panelists
- **December 13 or 14, 2017 6pm-8pm:** Grant reviewer orientation
- **February 16, 2018 8am-5pm:** Oral Presentations by round 2 grant applicants
- Review Process Commences on **December 16** and is 10-15 hours of application reviews per phase of reviews with 2 phases **until January 31, 2018**)