# Joint Technology Committee - Interim Hearing

## July 2022

# Agenda

- Technology Accessibility Program (TAP) Overview & Updates
  - Questions

- Advance Colorado Broadband Updates
  - Questions

**Technology Accessibility Program (TAP) Overview & Updates**

Heather Weir, Strategy, Performance and Admin Office Director
Karen Pellegrin, Senior Manager (TAP)
Theresa Montano, Solutions Architect (TAP)
Laurie Kubitz, Senior Solutions Engineer (TAP)

# Why

- Many of our government services were not designed to be inclusive, so we are excluding the 20% of Coloradans that have a disability.

- The benefits of accessibility:
  - Improve usability for all users
  - Extended service reach
  - Compel innovation
  - Improve workforce diversity
  - Improve workplace effectiveness

- Like investing in cybersecurity, improving accessibility will reduce our risk:
  - Reduce risk of negative media exposure
  - HB 21-1110 - civil litigation and $3,500 for each violation starting July 1, 2024
  - [Blind Americans Settle Lawsuit against Social Security Administration](#)
  - [National Federation of the Blind Urges Governors to Issue Accessible Executive Orders Regarding COVID-19](#)

# Statutory Authority

- **HB21-1110**
  - HB21-1110 was passed in 2021 and requires state agencies, on or before July 1, 2022, to submit written technology accessibility plans to OIT, as can be seen in CRS Section 24-85-103.
- **C.R.S. § 24-85-101 et seq**
  - OIT has statutory authority in C.R.S. § 24-85-101, et seq., to establish statewide information technology accessibility standards, to receive and review accessibility plans from state agencies, and to work with state agencies to create an implementation methodology.
    - **Colorado's Accessibility standards** (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 levels A and AA)
- **Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA)**
  - Persons With Disabilities - Civil Rights: C.R.S. § 24-34-801 et seq. The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act makes it illegal for any person to discriminate against an individual with a disability. House Bill 21-1110 expands this prohibition.
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**
  - Section 504 requires agencies to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in their programs and benefit from their services.
- **Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**
  - The ADA is a federal law protecting qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination.

# Funding History

- October 2017: **JBC initiated budget request** (Staff-initiated Technology Accessibility for People with Disabilities) → Common Policy funding, hired Theresa Montano, Solutions Architect of Accessibility
- **FY 2019-20 Decision Item:** Stopped due to COVID-19 (for 2 FTE + contractors, $500k)
- In 2020: Used the **Technology Advancement and Emergency Fund** (funded the Siteimprove pilot for one year)
- July 2021: **HB21-1110 passed** ($312,922 - 1 FTE + unlimited Siteimprove license)
  - Original fiscal note was for $1M and 4 FTE
  - October 2021: Hired Laurie Kubitz, Senior Solutions Engineer
- FY 2022-23 Decision Item: Denied and then the **Budget Amendment** was approved
  - $1.8M to include 5 FTE + funding for training, software and services
- FY 2022-23: $45,000 OSPB evaluation grant

# Technology Accessibility Program (TAP)

Website (for state agencies) with more details:

https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/accessibility-planning/home

Currently 3 FTE and growing to 7 FTE by August 2022

The TAP currently offers:
- Accessibility consultation
- Agency accessibility planning assistance
- Webinars, presentations, office hours
- Support using Siteimprove (website assessment tool)
- Product/vendor assessment and guidance (assist with procurement)

# Progress to Date

- 100% state agency engagement and plan submission
- Siteimprove Automated Accessibility Assessment Tool
  - 400+ state users participating in training and website improvement efforts
  - 335 state websites and growing
- Working closely with SIPA to ensure the colorado.gov platform is compliant
- Accessibility criteria added to OIT and DPA procurement contract documents, templates and processes
- Integrated accessibility in the software development lifecycle
- Hosted 40 consecutive Open Office Hours meetings
  - 50+ people at a time from across the state
- State Accessibility Newsletter has 650+ subscribers

# The road ahead...

- Investing current funding in training, coordination, software/services
- Funding needed to implement the agency IT Accessibility Adoption Plans
- June 2022 Siteimprove data showed us:
  - 335 websites
  - Scores range from 61.5 to 100 (recommend to stay above 80 at a minimum)
  - Only 76% of our sites are at that threshold now
  - Only 9% at 90 or above
- 1,000+ applications that need to be manually tested and remediated
- Although growth with TAP program, there are high needs across the state agencies for support, software, services, etc.
  - Non-consolidated agencies, local municipalities reaching out for assistance

# Resources

- OIT's website [Accessibility Law for Colorado State and Local Government website](#) - learn more about HB21-1110

- [Accessibility Operations Memorandum](#)

- [IT Accessibility Planning Guide](#) (for state agencies)
  - [See Resources page](#)

# Advance Colorado Broadband Updates

**Brandy Reitter, Executive Director**

*Helping Coloradans thrive anywhere in the state*

# CBO Funding Program Milestones

- **Capital Projects Fund $162M** - LOIs for project proposals are due July 18, we have received 2 submissions

- **BEAD up to $700M** - the Colorado's FCC serviceable location map available and under review, the official challenge process begins in September, maps are used to determine final funding allocation

- **State Digital Equity $1M** - OFOW is submitting the application July 12, 2022, will receive $21M for implementation over 5 years

- **Enabling Middle Mile up to $100M** - CDOT and DNR are collaborating on the state's submission to this program

# CBO Projects

- **Digital Government Strategic Plan (50% complete)** - Over 2 weeks - 1,921 residents, 163 local governments/special districts, and 59 community organizations serving historically marginalized populations responded

- **Broadband Deployment Board Statistics ($35M SLFRF)**
  - 5 contracts executed
  - Summer 2021 cycle - 9 re-review applications
  - Winter 2022 cycle - 20 under review this month
  - Summer cycle starts October 5, 2022 - pending available funds

# CBO Operations

- New and improved mapping support
- Grant services and software in progress
- Broadband Deployment Board automation
- Assessing capacity needs for new and existing programs
- Staffing capacity:
  - Community Engagement Specialist - hired
  - Federal Funding Specialist - hired
  - Broadband Senior IT Manager - hired
  - Broadband Senior Program Manager - hired
  - Broadband GIS Developer - hired
  - Recovery Officer - in progress

# Questions?