**Burlington Aging Council- Technology Access for Older Adults.**

**Specific Recommendations and Action Steps for Burlington:**

 **Needs Assessment**:

* Understand the needs of the older Burlingtonians including BIPOC and New

 American communities re: technology access and supports through the completion of a needs

 assessment/gap analysis focused on: infrastructure, capabilities, training/education,

 path to 6G.

* Also consider whether the New Americans/elder BIPOC population is interested in tech access and determine if it is a culturally appropriate system that would be embraced.

**Planning:**

* Complete the implementation of the “planBTV 2019” and update for 2023 and beyond, with a strong focus on technology, innovation and accessibility for all especially older adults.

**Training/Education**:

* Tap into high schools and colleges for student/intergenerational technology teaching programs. Pilot some innovative approaches in BTV.
* Explore ongoing technology training and education for older adults to help promote accessibility for those who are interested. E.g. Collaborations with local tech centers, universities/colleges and libraries.
* Promote the Vermont Assistive Technology Program that offers free supports/hardware/assessments. <https://atp.vermont.gov/>

**Funding:**

* Assess funding coming from federal grants and funds for technology infrastructure and development for Burlington. Stay abreast of legislative priorities and bills influencing

 broadband and technology in VT.

* Explore whether insurance/other private companies would step in to support the technologies and tech access for older Burlingtonians.
* Expand low cost tech bundle/programs like those offered by Burlington TeleCom. Explore options with other vendors to offer discounts to older Vermonters for internet service and tech support.

 **Safety/Security:**

* Recommend thatBurlington collaborate with security/safety companies to offer

 older adults access to security systems at a low cost e.g. “Ring app” on the iPhone or other

 security systems for their home.