A Collective Vision for Digital Inclusion
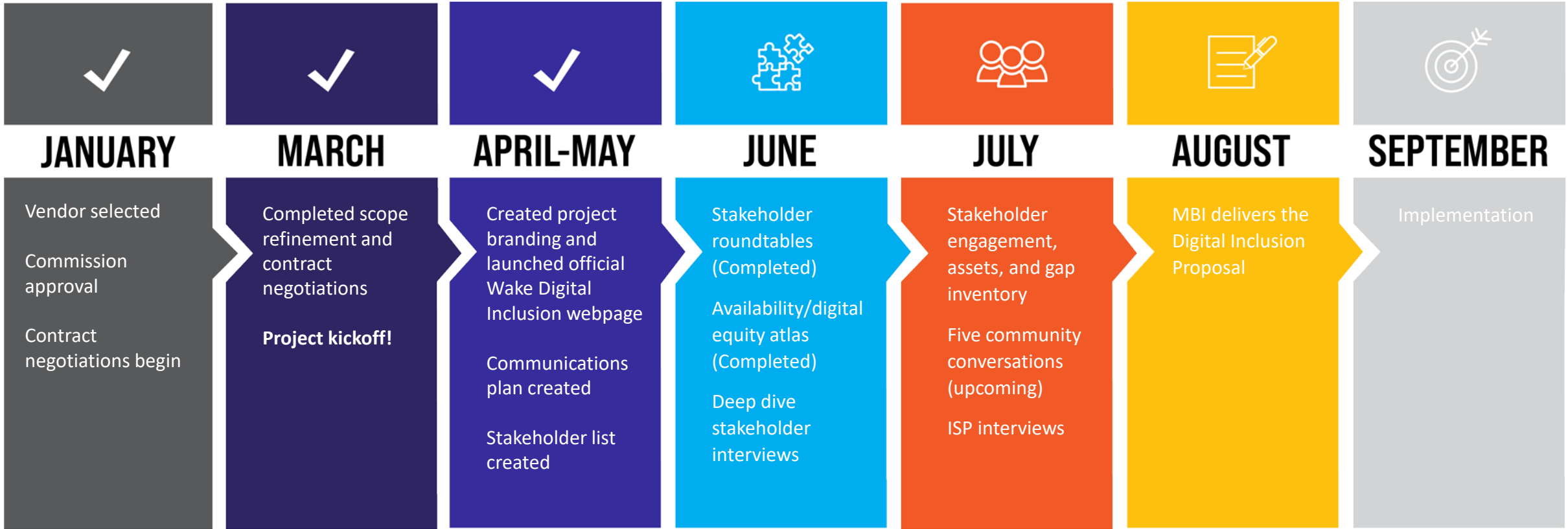
Update

Board of Commissioners Meeting

June 17, 2024

WAKE COUNTY
DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT

Project Timeline

WAKE COUNTY
DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT

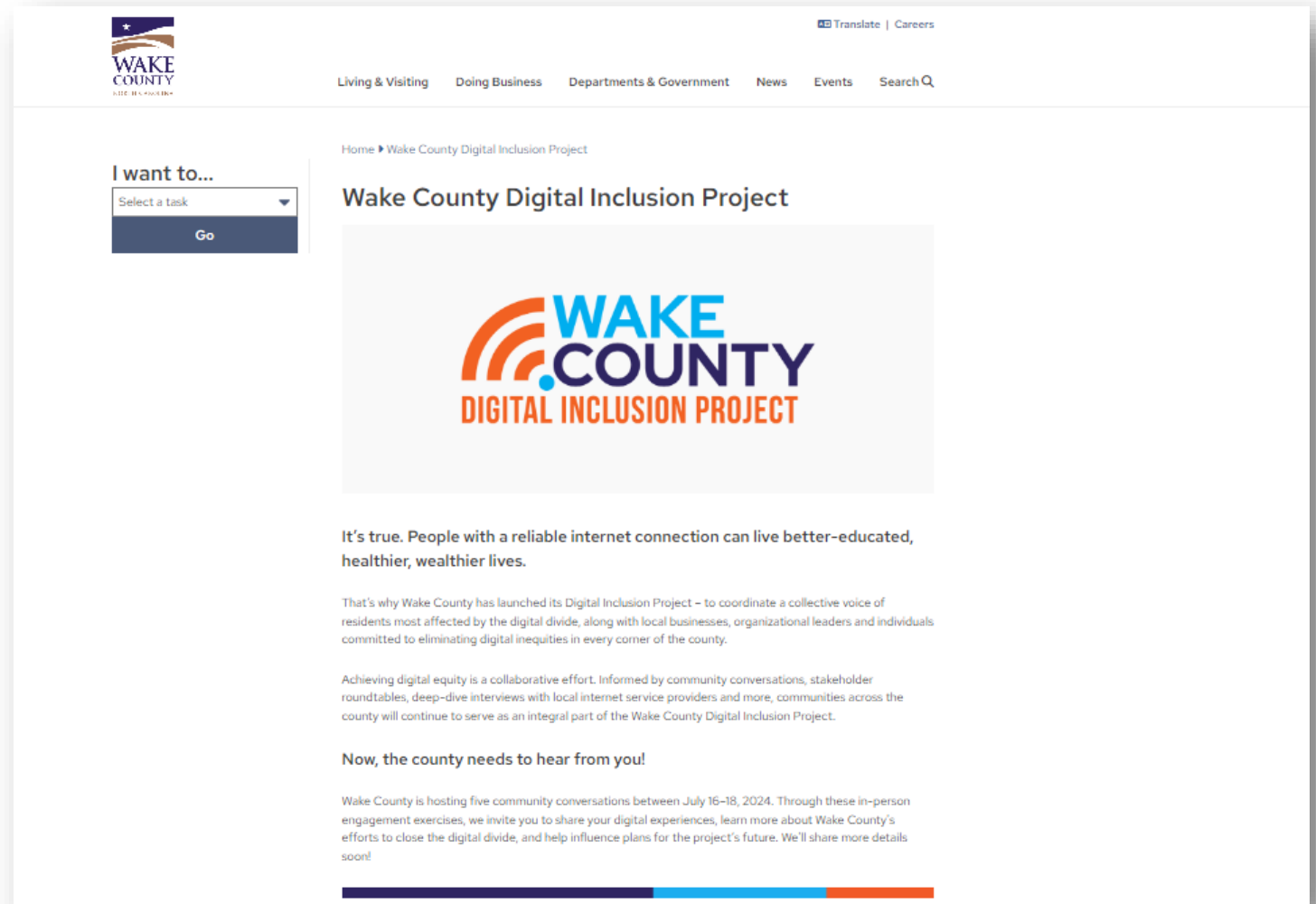| JANUARY	MARCH	APRIL-MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Vendor selected	Completed scope refinement and contract negotiations	Created project branding and launched official Wake Digital Inclusion webpage	Stakeholder roundtables (Completed)	Stakeholder engagement, assets, and gap inventory	MBI delivers the Digital Inclusion Proposal	Implementation
Commission approval	**Project kickoff!**	Communications plan created	Availability/digital equity atlas (Completed)	Five community conversations (upcoming)		
Contract negotiations begin		Stakeholder list created	Deep dive stakeholder interviews	ISP interviews		

Website

WakeDigitalInclusion.com

Residents can:

- Learn more about the project

- Find the latest project news

- Sign up for project-specific emails

- Download project assets and other shareable promotional resources

- Contact the County directly

- More to come!

Working to Achieve Your Vision

BOC Inclusive Prosperity Goal 1: By 2029, 5% more residents asked will indicate low barriers to employment, such as access to broadband, childcare, and transportation.

North Carolina Digital Equity Plan (2024): A future where all Wake County residents have access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet and digital tools, resources, and skills to fully and equitably participate in our society, democracy, and economy.

Where We Are

Stakeholder Engagements (June-July)

- Stakeholder Roundtables (Complete)

- Deep Dive Stakeholder Interviews

- ISP Interviews (In progress)

- Community Conversations (Week of July 15)

Who We Are Engaging

- Community Leaders & Residents
- Workforce
- Education
- Economic Development
- Veterans
- Seniors
- Low-Income
- Justice-Impacted

- **Accessibility**
- **Housing**
- **Broadband & Digital Equity**
- **Libraries**
- **Religious**
- **Equity-Focused**
- **County & State Agencies**

WAKE COUNTY
DIGITAL INCLUSION PROJECT

What We Have Heard

- Without action, **the digital divide could become permanent**

- Residents **not being able to access Medicaid**, medical appointments, apply for jobs, or secure housing

- A general need for training among **senior citizens and immigrants**

- Concerns about residents not being prepared to identify and **falling prey to scams**

- **Concerns about internet costs**, especially without the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- Internet access in **rural areas is challenging**

- **Homeless residents** not being able to take advantage of programs without access

- Concerns over how family households connect once they lose access to **public school-funded device**

Community Conversations

Coming Soon

- Upcoming: Week of July 15
- Targeted toward residents, grassroots organizations, community advocates, families
- 5 Sessions scheduled around Wake County
- 2-hour sessions
- Light refreshments

What's Next?

Digital Inclusion Plan: Plan Elements

- Mission, Vision, Values

- Actionable Goals

- Measurable Objectives

- Achievement Strategies

- Integrating Initiatives

- Holistic Approach to Sustainability

Alexisrael

Implementation

- **Set clear goals** for implementation phase

- **Establish core activities** to achieve goals

- Submit plan for future **grant funding**

- **Grow partnerships** with local community-based organizations, agencies, institutes of higher learning, training providers, and more that support goals

- Support, grow, and **promote successful existing digital inclusion programs** in training, device lending, and more

- Adopt mechanisms to **ensure the plan is regularly evaluated** and updated

Stay Informed

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Visit online