

August 25, 2017

Dear Sir or Madam:

The County is pleased to announce that as part of our contract with our GIS software vendor, Esri, we will be offering Oakland County city, village and township (CVT) staff the opportunity to create an **unlimited** number of **free** accounts in the County's ArcGIS Online for Organizations (AGO) account (<https://oakgov.maps.arcgis.com/>) beginning **October 1, 2017**.

What is ArcGIS Online?

AGO (www.arcgis.com) is a cloud-based GIS platform that enables non-GIS users to make and share their own maps and applications using the County's authoritative GIS data, as well as data they create on their own. Because this is web-based technology, maps and apps can be viewed not only on a desktop, but also on mobile devices anytime, anywhere. Maps and apps can also be embedded or shared on a community's web site, or via social media.

As we move forward with ArcGIS Online, we will continually be adding more data and templates that will make it easy for you to imagine and use location-based information in new and exciting ways.

What is the benefit to my community?

Visualizing location-based information on a map rather than in a list can make it much easier to understand relationships for both your community and your citizens. In the past, maps were created using expensive, somewhat complex GIS Desktop software. This newer, web-based technology puts mapping capabilities in the hands of many more staff.

Next Steps

1. We have created the GeoVision Self-Assessment tool to help you plan and prioritize where your community could take further advantage of location-based technologies. This Excel-based assessment also tracks progress from quarter to quarter. Create a free account on our G2G Marketplace (www.g2gmarket.com), and download GeoVision today.
2. Send an email to Susan Moore (moores@oakgov.com), and we'll prepare the IT Services Contract with the appropriate required exhibits. If your community is already working with IT on the contract due to the recent oblique imagery (Pictometry/CONNECTExplorer) training, no need to contact us again. We will automatically be including the ArcGIS Online exhibit for you. Once the contract is complete, we'll let you know how to request your ArcGIS Online accounts.
3. Look for announcement about CVT AGO training sessions that will be posted on our web site, www.oakgov.com/gis.
4. Start learning about ArcGIS Online. Here are some great places to start:
 - a. <http://www.arcgis.com>
 - b. <http://training.esri.com>

We hope that over the coming months you will see how valuable this new service can be to your everyday work.

Sincerely,



Phil Bertolini, Deputy County Executive and Chief Information Officer
Oakland County Information Technology

Cc: Susan Moore, Project Manager, Oakland County Information Technology; CVT GIS Data Contacts

