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Digital Inclusion: Community Connections Program

John Speirs, Program Manager

Background of Community Connections Program

- Network Services Agreement with Google Fiber
 - 100 sites available including new Central Library and City Hall eligible
- Open Application period in 2013
 - 158 unique organizations applied for a connection at 310 total locations.



Sectors Represented

The applications were organized into four types of organizational sectors:



Social, Health and Well-being, including Family Services



Arts, Culture, and Community



Education, Workforce, and Higher Education including professional development and skills associations



Public facilities and entities including but not limited to City of Austin, Independent School Districts, and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin



Gigabit Capacity Building

Idea Spark event convened in 2015

- The goal of IdeaSpark served to connect technology & entrepreneurial experts with the Google Fiber Community Connections recipients for a facilitated brainstorming session about gigabit application possibilities.
- This presented an opportunity to learn of all-new applications envisioned by non-profit and public entities. Lending your expertise to a discussion with the City of Austin, area school districts, and local non-profits to help spark ideas, inspire innovative thinking, and identify ways they can best use a gigabit connection to benefit our community.



Gigabit for Social Good: Community Connections Concepts

Increased Opportunities to Demonstrate
the Value of the Internet



Description

This project includes a one-week media campaign in which messages about the need for digital skills and information about accessible resources is disseminated through the media and in-person community ambassadors. The focus on the campaign will be educational information. Campaign organizers should follow-up with residents after the event to measure impact.

Solves for: Affordability and perceived value/relevance

Components: Ubiquitous, one-week education campaign

How it works: Go where everyone is: grocery stores, schools, libraries, community centers, religious places, etc.

Who it benefits: Digitally underserved communities

How it benefits: More accessible resources, through

www.austintexas.gov/DigitalInclusion

One of the ten prototypes that were generated as an outcome from the event.



The Connection

- All approved Community Connection sites will receive a free symmetric gigabit connection (up to 1 Gbps upload and 1 Gbps download)
- Full Customer Service Support to Site
- One Fiber Jack per Community Connection
- Free Connection is available for 10 years from the start of the Network Services Agreement (start date: 2013)



Housing Authority of the City of Austin - Booker T. Washington housing property (recipient of connection)



The Facilities Connected

Austin Independent School District

Travis High School
Garza Independence High School
Ann Richards School
Bowie High School

Austin Public

Community Media and Production Facility

Austin Public Library

Ruiz Branch
Twin Oaks Branch
Hampton Branch at Oak Hill
Manchaca Road Branch
Southeast Branch
New Central Branch

City of Austin Municipal Facilities

Austin City Hall
One Texas Center

Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Booker T. Washington housing property

Long Center for the Performing Arts
River City Youth Foundation
St. Edward's University
Texas Civil Rights Project
Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum
YWCA Greater Austin
ZACH Theater



Capacity Building

A goal is to promote and support our local gigabit grantees through regular meetups to share their planning, progress, lessons learned, and best practices, as well as technical support when needed.

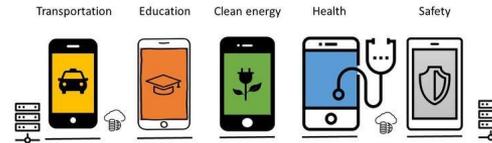
Austin's Efforts Are Represented through these Initiatives:

- US Ignite - Smart Gigabit Community
- Mozilla Foundation - Gigabit Community Fund Award
- GigaTECHS App Competition
- Gigabit 101 Workshops



GigaTECHs App Competition

The City of Austin is offering \$38,000 in prize money for next-generation gigabit applications focused on Transportation, Education, Clean energy, Health and public safety (TECHs).



Additional Resources

A map including the application documents of the 100 selected locations receiving a gigabit Internet connections can be accessed [here](#). The application process for this program concluded in 2013 and original review and assessment criteria can be accessed [here](#).

The City of Austin, Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs, Digital Inclusion Program Oversees the administration of the Google Fiber Community Connections program including annual reporting goals of recipients and program monitoring.



Thank you!

City of Austin, Office of Telecommunications & Regulatory Affairs
Digital Inclusion Program

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