

Grant Application Record #2126

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Short Community Grants Application

Before you begin

[Instructions for using the Community Grants system are available online](#) in PDF format.

Please direct questions or concerns about this application to

Phil D'Anieri pdanieri@aaacf.org

For technical support, please contact help@communitygrants.org.

General information

Application date

01-15-2008

Agency name

Government of Washtenaw County (Digital Inclusion Task Force)

Project name

Wireless Washtenaw: Digital Inclusion

Funder and fund

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation - All Applications

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Submitting this application

Application status Date submitted

Draft

Grant summary

Amount Requested

\$19,100.00

Total Project Cost

\$56,764.00

Purpose of Grant (one sentence)

To assist in the deployment of computer technology to the underserved community in Washtenaw County, with a specific focus on low-income families and senior citizens.

Grant Summary

As part of the Wireless Washtenaw project, the Digital Inclusion Task Force is committed to enhancing computer availability and accessibility throughout our community. Based on state-wide surveys and more localized data, we estimate that anywhere from 8,000 - 10,000 households in the County do not have a computer due to financial concerns.

In response, Washtenaw County has assembled a Digital Inclusion Task Force to heal the digital divide within our community. The Task Force consists of a variety of community partners,

including the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor SPARK, the Michigan Township Association and various not-for profits. The group has been working for over six months to strategize various means of healing our divide.

Besides fulfilling a leadership role, the County's commitment also includes donating 150+ Washtenaw County computers to low-income families, senior citizens and not-for profit agencies, among others. In terms of physical assets alone, this represents over a \$20,000 annual investment to assure our community has the technology and skill set to function in today's society and compete in the workforce.

These computers are in good condition and capable of delivering a quality experience to the end users. As the project expands, the Task Force will continue to add computers and reach a larger segment of our population by partnering with other community organizations (City of Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, etc.).

Technology aside, the Task Force is also committed to promoting and enhancing educational opportunities. Deploying technology alone does not benefit the community. That is why the Digital Inclusion Task Force is also taking steps to ensure adequate educational opportunities exist within the community through local libraries, universities, community education and other mechanisms. These education partners will offer ongoing classes, online tutorials, and additional access points for program participants.

To assist in facilitating computer deployment, the Digital Inclusion Task Force is seeking start-up funding to (1) assist with software procurement (operation system and anti-virus) for the computers, (2) contract with youths to install, refurbish and test the computers before deployment and (3) assist with communicating and promoting computer educational opportunities within the community.

It merits note that there is also an environmental component to the program. There are environmental hazards with simply disposing computer technology with normal trash, but at the same time it costs money for recycling programs to accept computers. Additional financial support would help the Task Force partner with local organizations, such as Recycle Ann Arbor, to ensure that (1) computers are used to their full lifespan (2) computers are properly disposed of once they reach their useful end.

This project is a joint venture with numerous organizations coming together and with Washtenaw County facilitating the development of a fully functional community-wide computer distribution plan. Washtenaw County has taken a leadership role by being the first to dedicate resources to the project and will continue to help facilitate its development, but this truly is a joint venture among numerous organizations.

Number of People Served

150

Proposed Start

06-01-2008

Proposed Completion

05-31-2009

Community Foundation grant coding

Please select the best response as it relates to your project from the program fields below.

Age

(ALL) All

Area

(U) Science & Technology

Disability

Economic Group

(LOW) Low Income

Ethnicity

(GEN) General Population

Gender

(BOTH) Both

Population

(GEN) General Population

Priority

(S) Economic Development

Request Type

(40) Program Development: Grants to support specific projects or programs as opposed to general purpose grants.

Geographic areas served

Washtenaw County

Jackson County

Livingston County

Other Area**Previous support from this funder**

Describe any financial support you have received from this funder in the last 3 years.

N/A

Funder acknowledgement

How will you acknowledge this funder?

Washtenaw County maintains a Wireless Washtenaw website where we will acknowledge the funder in our "Digital Inclusion" section. Also, we will incorporate various types of acknowledgement into the public communications that the Task Force and Wireless Washtenaw release regarding the implemented programs.

Grant contact information

If you would like to provide a contact specifically for this program, please fill in the section below. Otherwise, we will contact whomever you have listed in your Agency Profile.

Organization

Government of Washtenaw County (Digital Inclusion)

Name

Derrick Jackson

Title

Director of Elections

Address

200 North Main Street

City**State****ZIP Code**

Ann Arbor

MI

48104

Phone

(734) 222-6781

Fax

E-mail

jacksond@ewashtenaw.org

Fiduciary information

Please provide fiduciary information for this grant only if different from that in your agency profile.

Fiduciary Organization

Fiduciary Contact

Funder priority / Investment target

Program outcome statement

Provide a concise statement describing the end result you are working towards.

To enhance our community by bringing the "offline" community "online" through a series of digital inclusion programs that will deploy affordable computers to the underserved community while also offering a variety of computer educational opportunities.

Target population

Describe the people you will serve, by age, geographic area, socio-economics, organization, and gender (as applicable).

The project will target low income families, senior citizens and other communities within Washteanw County who are in need of computer technology. A select number of computers are also targeted for local not-for profit agencies.

Program components and activities

Describe the services you will provide, how often you will provide them, and when and where you will provide these services.

In 2008, The Digital Inclusion Task Forece will make 150 computers available to low-income families, senior citizens and other individuals in need of technology. These computers are quality, used machines that have reached the end of the manufacture's original three-year warranty. Once fully restored, it is estimated that the computers will have a usable lifespan of approximately two to three years. However, they currently have no software installed and come without monitors, keyboards and mice.

To fully restore the computers, the Task Force needs to procure and install software (Windows XP, an anti-virus program, and Microsoft Office Suite). This software package can be procured for as little as \$25/computer through special Microsoft licensing for low income families and individuals. To install the software and prep the computers for end users, the Task Force has partnered with the Business Side of Youth. They will coordinate workshops and other activities designed to train youth in computer repair. The workshops will be open to all Washtenaw County teens and led by a qualified computer technician. At the end of each workshop computers will be refurbished and ready for distribution while also offering youth interested in computer technology a hands-on training experiance.

In addition to software the Task Force will need to acquire funding for the purchase of monitors, keyboards and mice. Partnerships with Ann Arbor Recycle and other community organizations provide us with a low cost (\$30/computer) option to secure the needed technology.

Once all testing is complete, The Task Force will distribute the computers to a select number of not-for profit partners, who will in turn distribute the technology to the targeted population. The not-for profits will integrate the computer distribution process into their regular programs. For instance, Michigan Works! could potentially integrate computer distribution into their normal career training seminars. Once unemployed individuals complete the seminar, they have the option to purchase computers for a nominal fee (\$100). We have also established a free 60 day limited warranty for the computers, and will offer an extended option for an additional \$25.

As a part of receiving the computers individuals will agree to attend a set number of educational classes and our not-for profit partners will monitor and assist clients in attending these educational sessions. We will also pre-load a video tutorial onto each computer to help individuals as they become familiar with their computer.

Goals and measurements

Specify the changes in your target population that will result from participation in your program. Describe how you will measure those results.

The ultimate goal is to enhance our community and bring our "offline" community "online" by offering affordable computers. Success will be measured through:

- 150 households will receive a computer with internet access;
- 150 individuals will receive initial training;
- 80 individuals will seek out and attend additional/ongoing training offered by educational partners;
- 75 computers will be properly disposed of when the computer has reached the end of its usefulness;
- Increased access and use of online services offered by governments and not-for profit entities;
- Improved economic standing of targeted population due to computer training and access to online career services;
- Increased participation in educational seminars;
- Decreased number of computers disposed of improperly;

Much of this data will be collected and monitored through our inventory tracking software, Trirega. This software will allow us to monitor which computers are sent to the warehouse, when they are refurbished, who they are allocated to, monitor warranty information, and track if they are disposed of properly. In addition, we will be collecting information via surveys and follow-up discussions with the computer recipients and not-for profit partners.

Community impact

How will your project impact our community or create social change in one or more of the following ways, and how will you measure this change? (Research indicates that these factors best measure social change. We understand that not every project will achieve social change as defined here.)

- Define or reframe your project's main issue (such as hunger, housing, etc.)
- Change community behavior
- Develop or engage a critical mass to affect your project's main issue
- Create or change an institution or policy
- Maintain a current position or hold the line on previous progress

With every advancement in technology, our "offline" community (those without computers and appropriate technology-related skills) fall further behind. This "offline" community often translates into low-income families and senior citizens, as they lack the financial capacity to procure and follow the latest technology trends. In some cases these are the residents who could benefit most

from Internet access, given its wealth of career resources and personal knowledge.

There are numerous benefits to investing in digital inclusion projects;

ECONOMIC

- People who use a personal computer at home are more likely to develop the computer skills needed for employment;
- Computer literate workers drive productivity for individual businesses;
- Businesses are increasingly drawn towards communities with a talented workforce, which in turn increases the potential for economic development.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- An increasing number of organizations are moving services online, leaving the "offline" segments of the population at increased risk of exclusion;
- A wealth of information regarding finance, education, and health is available online, all of which can help increase one's quality of life;

COMMUNITY

- Internet access increases the convenience at which individuals can tap into their community and explore/utilize their local resources.

All of which will be measured through surveys administered to individual participants, not-for profit partners, and our educational partners.

Sustainability

How will you sustain the performance targets that are achieved in your program?

The Digital Inclusion Task Force will serve as an oversight committee that will monitor implemented programs and make improvements and additions when deemed necessary.

What are your long-term strategies for funding this program at the end of the grant period? (Please outline other funding sources for your program.)

Washtenaw County has agreed to donate 150 computers yearly with the possibility of increasing that number with shown success. This means that our baseline number of households reached each year starts at 150.

As program capacity develops we will expand the number of computers available for distribution on a yearly basis by partnering with Task Force organizations such as The University of Michigan and the City of Ann Arbor.

Financially, we will be charging a fee of \$100 per computer and \$25 for an optional extended warranty. The high end estimation on the cost of each refurbished computer is \$107.66. With these calculations our revenue will eventually cover our expenses so that the program is self sustaining over time.

In addition, by becoming an official Microsoft Authorised Refurbisher (MAR) the Digital Inclusion Task Force has the ability to continue to purchase low-cost software packages even as the software is updated.

Program budget

Please attach your project or program budget as a spreadsheet. It must be in the format specified by the funder.

[Download funder budget formats.](#)

You may return to this application at any time to attach your completed project / program budget by uploading it to the line below:

AAACF_Grant_Budget.xls

When you are finished

When you are ready to submit this application, please scroll back up to the top of the form, set the **Application status** to 'Submit', and then press the **Save** button in the blue bar above the application.

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