

COLUMBUS, MS

ACTNow (Access, Connectivity, Tools)

This pilot project is addressing the digital divide among Columbus Housing Authority residents by providing access to digital literacy, connectivity to internet service and tools needed to successfully engage in the digital space.

BUDGET

\$373K

\$261K
TVA Connected
Communities

\$112K
Proposed
Match

Background



Digital Divide

Lack of access to technology and digital literacy awareness affects the ability for certain communities to achieve educational, economic and healthcare parity.

COMMUNITY

480

housing units
within the Columbus
Housing Authority

THE OPPORTUNITY

Digital Literacy and Success

With the use of reliable, affordable internet and a fully capable device, more people can access essential services, such as education and healthcare.

Scope



Supply Devices and Services

to engage residents in hands-on learning.



Provide Mentoring and Programming

to explain the role of STEM in computing.



Hold Literacy Sessions

to establish digital literacy.

QUANTITY

2

year pilot project

50%

of households impacted

THE GOAL

Digital Devices and Access

Utilize marketing, recruitment and digital literacy sessions to empower communities of color to successfully engage in digital spaces.



FOCUS AREA
Broadband and Digital Literacy



TENNESSEE
VALLEY
AUTHORITY

Performance

Key Performance Indicators

- Digital literacy training opportunities and attendance
- Quantity of students engaged in STEM programming
- Access to new devices and technology:
 - Computers
 - Accessible technology for residents with disabilities
 - In-unit internet access

The Value

Columbus Housing Authority Residents

- Provide seniors with access to telemedicine to improve independent living
- Increase access to online workforce development and employment opportunities
- Support students with online learning
- Encourage awareness and knowledge of digital literacy and STEM

The Greater Community

- Promote economic growth and development through increased education
- Gain insight into effective ways to increase digital access and knowledge to communities negatively impacted by digital inequities

Key Partners

PROJECT LEAD

Columbus Housing Authority

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

Columbus Light and Water

Mississippi State University
Chapter of National Society
of Black Engineers

Resident Council of Friendly City

Tennessee Valley Authority



Timeline

Phase 1

Procurement

Phase 2

Marketing

Phase 3

Recruitment

Phase 4

Digital literacy sessions

Phase 5

Instruction

Phase 6

Program completion



Learn more about
this pilot project