COLUMBUS, MS

ACTNow

ACCESS • CONNECTIVITY • TOOLS

This pilot project addresses 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

$340K

$262K
TVA Connected Communities

$78K
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.

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.

COMMUNITY

480
housing units within the Columbus Housing Authority

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.

THE GOAL

Digital Devices and Access

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

QUANTITY

2
Year Pilot

50%
of households impacted

FOCUS AREA
Equitable Access to Services

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

Columbus Light and Water

Columbus Housing Authority

Resident Council of Friendly City

Mississippi State University Chapter of National Society of Black Engineers

Residency Office of Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) of Friendly City

Tennessee Valley Authority

Process

Procurement	Marketing	Recruitment	Digital Literacy Sessions	Instruction	Program Completion
2 months	*1-2 months*	*1 month*	*3 months*	*4-24 months*	*4-24 months; ongoing*