



## Firebaugh Technology Collaborative Final Report October 2012

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**Name of Project:** Firebaugh Technology Collaborative  
**Grant Number:** 2096436  
**Start Date:** July 1, 2008 **End Date:** October 31, 2012

### I. Financial Summary

• Total Project Budget Spent:	\$708,414
• CETF Grant Amount:	\$423,219
• Additional Grant: (if applicable)	N/A
• Percentage of Match Funds Raised against Goal: \$285,195	100%
• Cost Per Unit of Outcomes: (Total Outcomes/Total Budget)	\$163

### II. Project Description, Goals and Objectives, and Outcomes

#### Project Description

The City of Firebaugh, in collaboration with 4 partners: the Firebaugh-Las Deltas School District, the Westside Institute of Technology, the Firebaugh Computer Learning Center, and the Greenlining Institute, implemented the "Firebaugh Community Technology Collaborative" (FCTC), a multi-faceted, holistic, and replicable approach designed to eliminate the Digital Divide in Firebaugh, CA. The basis of the project was to expand the use of broadband technology in the community and ensure the technology is accessible to all segments of society and supports the economic growth of local families and the community. The FCTC worked with:

- The Westside Institute of Technology, a collaborative of the three school districts and the community college district, provided residents with distance learning for career vocational programs in high demand jobs in the region – curriculum taught in one location will be available to every participating high-school or community college, opening up a full range of careers to Firebaugh residents;
- The Firebaugh - Las Deltas School District/Firebaugh Middle School equipped students at the critical middle school level and their teachers with computer and internet literacy skills through the "GenYES" program – a successful national program with a holistic approach that has helped train and link low-income students and their teachers with broadband resources;
- The Firebaugh Computer Learning Center (FCLC) provided the community with access to broadband and computers, and training in basic and advanced computer literacy and other relevant applications;
- The City of Firebaugh managed the project and served as the fiscal agent.
- The Greenlining Institute in its San Joaquin Villas development, a new affordable housing complex, provided residents with training classes in basic and advanced computer literacy and other relevant applications through the FCLC – 15 San Joaquin Villas were equipped with a computer and broadband access.

The Westside Institute of Technology (WIT) trained unemployed adults, student drop outs, and students in career technical vocational training using both distance learning technology and traditional methods. WIT made career technical education curriculum available to students of three high schools (Firebaugh; Mendota; Golden Plains) and the Coalinga and Lemoore Campuses of the West Hills Community College and identified demand occupations through surveys in the Firebaugh region.

The Firebaugh - Las Deltas School District/Firebaugh Middle School developed a technology proficient faculty and student body proficient in the use of computer and broadband technology using the GenYes program. They trained faculty members to use broadband technology for curriculum development and teaching core subjects and trained students in the use of broadband technology for their educational and future college/technical careers.

The Firebaugh Computer Learning Center (FCLC) provided a safe, accessible space for community members, especially low-income families, to access broadband Internet and computing technology. They provided broadband access to community members who would otherwise have been unable to afford monthly internet subscriptions and also offered basic computing classes for local community members.

The City of Firebaugh managed the project and ensured that the evolving needs of the Firebaugh community are met by Firebaugh Community Technology Collaborative program. They publicized and reached out to the community to ensure that the goals and objectives of the program were met.

The Greenlining Institute equipped each home in the San Joaquin Villas with broadband access. They also helped produce a video to promote the Firebaugh Community Technology Collaborative.

Outcome Description	Actual	Goal	Percent Completed
Implement new distance learning classes at 3 high schools and 2 community college campuses.	4	5	80%
Enroll students in new distance learning classes at 3 high schools and 2 community college campuses.	734	512	143%
Complete career technical education training for youth and adults in demand occupations identified in survey through classes offered at 3 high schools and 2 community college campuses.	215	150	143%
Train faculty for Gen Yes Program	56	24	225%
Enable 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students to achieve technology proficiency through the GenYes program.	716	533	134%
Enable 7 <sup>th</sup> grade students to achieve technology proficiency through the GenYes program.	968	710	137%
Enable 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students to achieve technology proficiency through the GenYes program.	738	534	138%
Assist students attending after school program with homework through training program.	676	985	69%
Enroll and complete basic computer training classes in Digital Literacy and computer maintenance.	168	516	33%
Conduct community workshops, publicize successes, and promote the project model in other communities.	6	6	100%

### Goals and Objectives Summary

All goals and objectives have been completed. In all but two cases, the project exceeded targeted outcome levels for the objectives.

## III. Accomplishments and Challenges

### Summary of Accomplishments and Impacts of Project

The collaboration among all agencies resulted in successfully achieving the installation, training, and closing the technology gap for the participating students (youth and adults), teachers and residents.

### ***Assessment of Outcomes Achieved in Comparison to Grant Agreement***

The partnership with the 5 agencies was well coordinated. There was a high rate of completion among partners. Out of the 5 only one did not achieve its goals. The remaining 4 agencies meet or exceeded 100% of their goals and objectives. One organization did not achieve its goals, in part, because of the lack of proper recorded keeping. Another issue was adults in classes during the summer session were also seasonal employees or farm laborers and were required to work long hours.

### ***Delineation of Deliverables and Outcomes Not Achieved and Explanation***

The Greenlining Institute was unable to fully provide digital technology to all 21 proposed homes. The problem was the developer was unable to procure the funds needed to finish the remaining eleven homes.

### ***Discussion of Other Positive Results from Project***

The positive results of the program include: the ability to provide the needed education and training to several communities that are underserved. The program did not just help the residents; it also trained teachers to provide new skills in technology, English, and Digital Literacy to the students. Education and training on the use of technology by the Westside Institute of Technology continues well after the grant was completed. The residents are aware and have access to use of technology within their community's. Residents have gained valuable knowledge about software programs to help manage monthly expenses, search for information, and use of social media.

The grant enabled Westside Institute of Technology to provide long distance learning in a number of practical areas: truck driving, mechanical maintenance, administration of justice, child development, and welding courses. A couple of the colleges that provided long distance courses were Montana State University at Bozeman and Alberta University, Canada. The Firebaugh Middle School provided training to faculty members to become proficient in the use of computers. In return the faculty provides classes to students, who became proficient in technology use. The Firebaugh Computer Learning Center was able to provide internet access to low-income residents, assist students with homework, and provide class on introduction to computers.

### ***Overview of Major Challenges to Achieving Planned Results***

#### ***Identify Major Challenges to Successful Implementation***

The City of Firebaugh had challenges scheduling of presentation with all the partners. The City worked to schedule meetings to discuss the program status and progress made in educating the residents on technology. The City began producing a video to promote the Fresno County Council of Governments. Because of top management turn over this video was not completed. The Greenlining Institute, related to the Villas, also hit a few roadblocks because of the economy. The developer was unable to secure funding to complete the full project of 21 homes. Greenlining had the responsibility to provide all the homes with hardware and broadband access.

#### ***Discuss Efforts to Address Challenges and Resolve Problems***

The City worked with the developer and provided some funding to help in completing the housing project. At the end the developer choose not complete the housing project, which did not allow for Greenlining Institute to meet its goal. The staff changes in the City created the biggest challenges in the program and grant administration. To help resolve the problem the City could have cross-trained its employees.

**IV. Lessons and Recommendations**

**Summary of Lessons Learned**

Lesson 1. Be careful of partnerships in which it is not clear who is going to provide the training and education. Make all parties aware of the policies of the grant administrator/fiscal agent.

Lesson 2. Have a plan to handle staff changes. Have more than one person with key knowledge about the program.

Lesson 3. Be careful of partnership changes. The partnership has the responsibility to make sure all partners understand their requirements needed to run the program.

**Recommendations**

***Recommendations for Expanding the Project in Region or Scaling Up Statewide***

Recommendation 1. Provide partners, if needed, with the tools to properly keep good record keeping and provide reports on a timely manner.

Recommendation 2. Anticipate staff turnover or long-term illness. This will help in completing all reports in a timely manner.

***Recommendations to CETF Regarding Grants Management***

None

**V. Grant Agreement Requirements**

**Purchased Equipment**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>How it will be used.</b>
08/17/2008	Computers	Firebaugh Computer Learning Center	\$7,898	Provide Internet access to low-income families.
01/01/2009	Installation of equipment	Westside Institute of Technology	\$303,360	Provide distance learning.
06/24/2009	Video	Promote Program	\$10,000	Promote program through the Central Valley.
08/17/2011	Computers	Greenlining Program	\$17,849	Provide internet access to low-income families.

**Unspent CETF Grant Funds**

All of the CETF grants funds were expended.