



The YMCA of Greater Long Beach Final Report May 2011

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Name of Project: Neighborhood Technology Learning Continuum
Grant Number: 1985647
Start Date: April 2008 **End Date:** April 2011

I. Financial Summary

- Total Project Budget Spent: \$4,061,835
- CETF Grant Amount: \$550,200
- Additional Grant: N/A
- Match Funds Raised against Goal (\$3,120,522): \$3,511,635
- Cost Per Unit of Outcomes: \$345

II. Project Description, Goals and Objectives, and Outcomes

Project Description

The YMCA of Greater Long Beach partnered with the City of Long Beach and Long Beach Unified School District to develop the Neighborhood Technology Learning Continuum. This project taught children in elementary, middle and high school levels high-end technology and digital media skills in an after school environment utilizing high school age youth as technology tutors in Apple Mobile Learning Labs. The program provided academic and workforce training to high school graduates, who would be eligible for paid digital media projects through YMCA state of the art social enterprise, Change Agent Productions (www.changeagentproductions.com) and the city of Long Beach efforts to attract digital media companies to the city. Technology curriculum included Internet research, digital storytelling, web design, digital graphic arts, 3D animation, digital music creation, office software, presentation software, IT troubleshooting, computer hardware, operating systems and peripheral equipment such as digital still & video cameras, printers, scanners, external hard drives, liquid crystal display and digital light processing projectors. At the end of the three-year project, the YMCA served 9,182 children and youth.

Goals and Objectives Summary

All goals and objectives have been completed.

Project Outcomes Summary

The organization has met and exceeded all outcomes established in the Grant Agreement.

Outcome Description	Actual	Goal	Percent Completed
Number of youth that completed basic Digital Literacy course work.	3,986	1,000	399%
Number of youth that completed course work that prepares them for a job/career.	3,207	2,100	153%
Number of youth that completed advanced course work that counts towards college credit	413	270	153%
Improvements in performance indicators	4,184	2,100	199%

III. Accomplishments and Challenges

Summary of Accomplishments and Impacts of Project

Assessment of Outcomes Achieved in Comparison to Grant Agreement

Long Beach Neighborhood Technology Learning Continuum has exceeded the projected outcomes in the Grant Agreement.

Delineation of Deliverables and Outcomes Not Achieved and Explanation

N/A

Discussion of Other Positive Results from Project

The Neighborhood Technology Learning Continuum within three years has worked with over 9,182 youth in elementary, middle, and high school. The 4,591 elementary-age youth will benefit the most from the services provided by the program for they will have a continuous support system in place as they go through primary, secondary, and post-secondary education. The technology skills they have learned will help them academically to succeed in school and develop 21st Century skills sets that are critical in the workforce. That same continuous support system carries over to the middle and high school age youth too by providing opportunities for them to achieve the highest form of learning—“teaching it back.” In the Tech Tutor program, middle and high school age youth “gave back” to the community by teaching computer technology skills to elementary age youth at 10 elementary after school sites. Elementary-age youth learned Internet research skills, presentation skills, moviemaking skills and graphic design skills.

The community media studio project, Change Agent Productions, has become a success in given youth the opportunity to use their technology skills in “real world” paid projects in the areas of digital moviemaking, graphic design, web design, technology consulting and training, and audio visual support for conferences.

Overview of Major Challenges to Achieving Planned Results

Identify Major Challenges to Successful Implementation

During the duration of the project there were no major challenges, except for the State budget crisis that resulted in the organization not renewing the contract on year 3 to provide services in high schools within the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD).

Discuss Efforts to Address Challenges and Resolve Problems

With budget cuts on many levels, it was understandable the LBUSD had to make the hard decision to cancel some programs and redirect the funding to keep teachers and school staff. This budgetary issue was out of the hands of the YMCA. The organization continued having a positive relationship with LBUSD in the elementary after-school program sites.

IV. Lessons and Recommendations

Summary of Lessons Learned

Lesson #1. A continuous support system throughout a youth’s academic career is much needed on multiple levels. It is critical to supporting students and their parents by educating them on college preparation requirements, accessing broadband technology, and teaching 21st Century skills. Data dictates that youth who have continuous support systems succeed academically and socially. They receive better grades, attend school more and conduct themselves better socially.

Lesson #2. By giving youth the opportunity to participate in “real world” paid projects, they are connecting the dots on what is being taught in hands-on project-based setting to “*I can make money with the skills sets I have.*” By acting as instructors and providing 21st Century skill sets to elementary-school children, youth acquire a set of skills that helps them be better prepared to enter the workforce.

Recommendations

Recommendations for Expanding the Project in Region or Scaling Up Statewide

Recommendation #1: At the end of the second year of the grant, the YMCA was approached by other non-profit organizations and other YMCAs about replicating the Youth Institute model to cities in Southern and Northern California. Last summer, East Palo Alto (EPA) Family YMCA became the first replication site for the Youth Institute and it was a success. The YMCA sent two Youth Institute Alumnus from the Class of 2001 to run the program along with staff from EPA YMCA. EPA YMCA obtained the same data results as the Long Beach Youth Institute and validated that the model works in other communities.

Recommendation #2: In year three, the Long Beach Youth Institute staff were invited to attend the 2010 YMCA EXPO in Salt Lake City, Utah. The YMCA of the USA was in the process of rebranding the image of the YMCA and making itself more relevant to the needs of the communities they serve. With this change in the YMCA movement, they showcased and honored the Long Beach Youth Institute as the national model for “Youth Development.” A month later, in Hong Kong, the World Alliance of YMCAs named the Long Beach Youth Institute as the “Best Youth Program in the Western Hemisphere.” The President and CEO of the YMCA of the USA had a special meeting with the Youth Institute and shared with them that he wanted up to 10 Youth Institute programs through the USA. The Development Director for the YMCA of the USA is currently searching for foundations and corporations to support the replication of the Youth Institute.

Recommendation #3: The Long Beach Youth Institute coordinated a meeting with three foundations to generate support to assist in the replication of the model in the state of California. This summer there are 3 sites that are running Youth Institute programming – EPA YMCA, Community Build, and The Children’s Institute. Many of the organizations that have approached the YMCA of Greater Long Beach about having a Youth Institute program at their site have financial resources to start the replication.

We extremely gratefully for the support we received from CETF to assist in the replication of the Youth Institute in the state of California.

Recommendations to CETF Regarding Grants Management

Our Program Officer was extremely helpful in all areas of management with the grant and project, as well as all the staff at CETF. It was a pleasure working with CETF to increase broadband access to all.

VI. Grant Agreement Requirements

Purchased Equipment

No equipment was purchased with CETF funds.

CETF of Grant Funds

All of the CETF grants funds were expended.