Organization:	**City of Tallahassee**
Project Name:	**Apalachee Ridge Technology Learning Center Broadband Initiative**
Project Type:	**Sustainable Broadband Adoption**
State:	**Florida**
Federal Award:	**$1,212,020**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The City of Tallahassee plans to implement a two-part strategy to utilize broadband technology to enhance workforce skills, educational opportunities, and digital literacy among low-income, low-literacy residents in economically depressed, underserved areas of the city. The Apalachee Ridge Technology Learning Center Broadband Initiative first plans to launch a workforce development program using computer-based career training, job skills courses, and online tutoring. Second, it plans to provide an online broadband accessibility curriculum for K-12 students aimed at increasing critical thinking, digital literacy, e-learning, and research skills.

Through Apalachee Ridge's Digital Harmony Program, the project also intends to train middle school students to refurbish computers in partnership with Florida State University, while offering low-cost broadband services to low-income community members and refurbished computers to at-risk students and their families.

The Apalachee Ridge Technology Learning Center Broadband Initiative also proposes to:

- Provide 25 new computers for the learning center and distribute up to 400 refurbished computers annually to middle school students and their families.

- Train as many as 2,500 residents over the life of the project through approximately 150,000 hours of teacher-led training to Tallahassee's economically vulnerable residents.

- Implement an extensive qualitative and quantitative review and progress report component to track which elements of the program prove to be most successful. This will be done by direct mail, e-mail, and in-person surveys; conducting unique outreach initiatives to determine which are the most effective; and tracking earned media and program publicity.

- Replicate successful initiatives in Clayton County, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; and Houston, Texas.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The City of Tallahassee's Information System Services Department provides technology and telecommunications services to all city departments, including infrastructure, support, maintenance and project management for 20 locations and over 30 internal departments that interconnect with numerous external agencies.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Apalachee Ridge Technology Learning Center
- Alliance for Digital Equality
- Go Beyond Foundation
- Florida State University College of Communication and Information

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