Organization:	Wireless Neighborhoods
Project Name:	Pittsburgh CONNECTS
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Pennsylvania
Federal Award:	$784,000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To provide predominantly low-income, African American communities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with better Internet access and online tools, **Wireless Neighborhoods** is proposing to establish four public computer centers to serve six of Pittsburgh's economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The centers, which intend to serve the East Liberty, Garfield, Larimer, Homewood, Hill District, and Hill Top neighborhoods, would allow residents to check out laptops for use at the centers, or to borrow them overnight once they complete a 40-hour training program. Pittsburgh CONNECTS also proposes a laptop lease-to-buy program through which members could purchase laptops on zero percent interest plans after completing their broadband adoption training.

To attract youth and other residents to the centers, staff intends to create a coffeehouse feel by engagingyouth workers, funded in part through the Pittsburgh Workforce Investment Area, to operate a coffee and juice bar alongside the broadband-enabled services offered through the BTOP grant.

Pittsburgh CONNECTS also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 160 new workstations at the four new centers, while engaging an estimated 1,400 weekly users.

- Train as many as 16,000 residents with up to 64,000 hours of teacher-led training annually over the two-year life of the project. Training will focus on education assistance, job training, financial literacy, and health awareness.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Wireless Neighborhoods was formed as a non-profit corporation in December 2003 as a result of the cooperation of several of Pittsburgh's preeminent community organizations, including Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, Community House Church, and Hill House Association. Created to improve community and faith organizations' capacities to respond to issues that affect the lives of the children and families in the neighborhoods they serve, Wireless Neighborhoods targets its efforts and resources on afterschool programming, particularly for the children in the city's African-American and lower income neighborhoods.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
- Centre Avenue YMCA
- Hill House Association
- Kingsley Association
- AARP
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of Pittsburgh
  City of Pittsburgh
- PNC Bank