



TOP Supports Community Technology Centers

The Appalachian Center for Economic Networks demonstrates how community technology centers (CTCs) in public schools can serve as conduits for workforce training and economic development. Five high schools set up CTCs in their schools that were used to connect local people with jobs, and to connect entrepreneurial students with a group of small specialty food businesses. The students assisted the firms with purchasing and inventory, market trends, designing web pages, conducting online focus groups, and participating in e-commerce.

The Community Preservation and Development Corporation's EdgeNet Project places networked computers directly into the homes of community residents and in several CTCs in this once run down and drug ridden public housing complex in Washington D.C. The computers provide residents with broadband Internet connections to increase educational opportunities, participate in community communications via email, access on-line resources, and take advantage of enhanced delivery of community-based services. One CTC has been designated and equipped specifically for digital music production by young residents.

Technology for All's JobTech Project has created a scalable and replicable model for creating jobs with livable wages in low-income communities served by CTCs. The JobTech program was developed in Houston utilizing a shared fiber loop installed between participating CTCs. The program will be made available to selected sites that can replicate this innovative use of technology as an economic development tool in low-income urban and rural communities.



Plugged In is developing ten new CTCs for use by East Palo Alto residents, small businesses, and community-based organizations. A train-the-trainer approach is being used to train staff for the centers and to train community-based organizations and residents to post, share, and receive digital information via East Palo Alto's community network epa.net.

Cleveland Housing Network's Bringing Information Technology Home uses the Internet to build capacity for successful home ownership and financial strength among low-income families, with particular emphasis on families that have participated in the Cleveland Housing Network's nationally-acclaimed Lease Purchase Program. Bringing IT Home literally "brings home" the skills, equipment, and technology for low-income families working toward lasting financial stability to learn to successfully interact with banks, money managers, home loan officers, maintenance, and resident support. The Cleveland Housing Network is partnering with One Economy and the Enterprise Foundation on this project.