Families in the targeted Pacoima and Pico Union/Westlake communities of Los Angeles lack computer
and broadband access, due to poverty and a lack of awareness of available resources. YPI has learned
this firsthand operating the Family Technology Project and other education and training programs since
2001. According to broadband penetration rate information provided by 2009 FCC Form 477 filings by
state video franchise holders and affiliates in California, only 30.2% of residents in these census tracts
(2089.04, 2083, 2091.01, 2092, 2091.02, 2089.02, 2089.03, 2088, 2087.2, 2084, 2085, 2086.2, 2086.1,
1046.2, 1043.2, 1044.01, 1047.01, 1046.1, 1048.1, 1048.2, 1045, 1044.02, and 1043.1) utilize
broadband. Poverty, lack of infrastructure, language skills, and lack of knowledge are key difficulties that
the Project will address. In Pacoima, 86% of children in area public schools are eligible for the federal
Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program, an indicator of family poverty. In Pico Union, 90.3% of children
enrolled in area schools are eligible for the Lunch Program. The proposed expansion of FTP will provide
training in broadband technology as well as home laptop computers for low income families with
children at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and charter schools in the communities of
Pacoima and Pico Union. FTP will promote broadband access by working with partners to provide
computer literacy classes, laptops at no cost, and access to online content (education and job training
programs operated by YPI and partners) available via broadband accounts that will also be provided to
families. Online program resources will include materials and resources that are part of the LA
ParentSmart and Family Technology Project Portal websites YPI has created with funding from the
California Emerging Technology Fund and the City of Los Angeles. These offer extensive community and
program resources for low-income families, and will go live on June 30, 2010. They adapt YPI's
afterschool, adult education and job training program curricula for online use, while also providing
community information regarding public safety, health resources, child care, transportation and other
issues of paramount concern to low-income families. Education resources include access to distance
learning college courses offered by the nine community colleges in the Los Angeles Community College
District, as well as information on how to sign up for adult education and vocational training classes
offered by YPI and partners such as the Los Angeles Unified School District. The essential problem
tackled by the proposed program is that the majority of families in the targeted communities lack access
to broadband technology and computer technology in the home. The Family Technology Project will
partner with families to provide broadband education and technology to help them access resources
such as LAParentSmart and the FTP Portal. This will include hands on computer literacy training from
qualified adult education instructors, and laptops provided for the home at no cost to client families
served in FTP. FTP merges technology in the home with practical instruction, as well as providing access
to exciting ways to utilize computers and broadband access. FTP seeks to validate strong research that demonstrates the importance of integrating technology with useful information of relevance to the target low income families. Outcomes for the Project will include 5,000 families that will enroll in and graduate from the 100 hour computer literacy course, and receive laptops and broadband access in their homes. All 5,000 families will receive user names and passwords for the already created LA ParentSmart and Family Technology Project websites. 6,740 additional families will access broadband education and training materials through the LA ParentSmart and the FTP portal. The Youth Policy Institute will partner with LAUSD and charter schools in the targeted communities to identify and serve the 5,000 families with children in grades 4-10. The additional 6,740 families will come from clients served in YPI's existing education programs in the targeted communities that lack broadband, according to agency review and client surveys. This will include 800 families from YPI's workforce development programs, 2600 families from YPI's afterschool programs, 1,250 from the YPI FamilySource Center, 360 from the two charter schools operated by YPI, 430 from the San Fernando Middle School (LAUSD) where YPI has been selected as the first nonprofit to operate a Pilot School beginning September 2010, 580 from YPI's Full Service Community Schools program, and 720 from the San Fernando Valley Poverty Initiative operated by YPI in the targeted community. The Pacoima and Pico Union communities have a population of 131,138, according to 2008 Census estimates. In Pacoima, 86% of children in area public schools are eligible for the federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program, a leading indicator of family poverty. 94% of students are Latino, while 45% are English Learners. The San Fernando Gardens (the only public housing facility in the San Fernando Valley) is targeted by the Project. According to Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) data, the average annual income is $18,000, more than 45% less than Los Angeles median family income. Pico Union/Westlake has 44.2% of residents below the poverty line according to Census data. 90.3% of children enrolled in eleven area schools are eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program. 95% are Latino, and over 41% are English Learners. The Project will reach 11,740 families with broadband services. Each family will have at least two members served- a parent and a child enrolled in grades 4-10 in area schools. The total number of potential broadband subscribers the Project will reach is 11,740. The Project guided by research that demonstrates that fourth graders gain maximum benefit from educational technology. It stops with grade 10 students to provide full services and evaluation during the three year program period, a process much more challenging with 11th and 12th graders. YPI has operated the Family Technology Project for the past eight years. In this time, FTP has brought together public and private partnerships to provide computer literacy training for 850 families who have graduated and received a complete computer system for their home at no cost. Since 2008, the California Emerging Technology Fund has been a primary partner, and has supported FTP to provide broadband access with partners such as Time Warner Cable, Newegg.com, IBM, Bank of America and others. YPI has experience providing technology for low income communities and clients. The agency has been the grantee or lead partner in five Community Technology Center grant awards from the U.S. Department of Education for Los Angeles, San Francisco, Albuquerque, and Washington, D.C. The annual budget of YPI and its affiliated charter schools is $34 million. YPI has raised over $120 million for youth and family services in Los Angeles since 2001. YPI currently operates programs that include extensive Recovery Act workforce development programs ($6.2 million in past six months to train 1,200 clients in health and education careers), summer youth employment, poverty initiatives, preschool, afterschool programs at 56 school sites, two charter
schools, tutoring and college preparation, adult education and parenting, day laborer centers, and technology initiatives. YPI has been awarded U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer's Excellence in Education Award, as well as Cisco's Growing With Technology Award. 112 jobs directly created, indirectly created, or induced. Cost: $7,203,563 over the three-year project period.