Results are Showing for TXC2

HOUSTON, TEXAS—When Texas Connects Coalition received a $9.6 million grant for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, its founders, Austin Free-Net and Technology For All, turned hope into promises with major project goals.

With careful planning and federal blessing, these goals (and the grant) had a completion date in 2013. As January's numbers roll in, Texas Connects Coalition is excited to exceed or nearly meet almost every goal.

To date, Texas Connects Coalition (TXC2) has created and maintains 73 public computer centers serving rural and urban Texas, where geographic or socioeconomic barriers keep current technology a distant dream. This

TEXAS CONNECTS COALITION	BTOP Stated Goals	Project to Date	Percent of BTOP Goal
Site Data			
PCC Sites	70	73	104%
Available Workstations	1361	1308	96%
Average Weekly Users	40930	16416	40%
Total Site Users		431952	
Training Data			
Total Participants	159036	57069	36%
Total Training Hours	314218	1028928	327%

means we've met our goal by 104 percent—and we're still finding more community centers, libraries and other civic-minded organizations in neighborhoods that need the digital access and literacy training we offer. In "Q&A: Bridging the Technology Gap", Technology For All President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Will Reed tells Houston Chronicle, "If, for example, you go into a big-box retail center these days and want a job, you have to fill out an application online at the kiosk there in the store. What we're trying to do is give people that skill set."

In these centers, we've installed or updated 1,308 workstations—96 percent of our target goal—which serve an average of 16,416 users per week and 431,952 users total, at 86 percent goal completion.

Our biggest surprise is in the training. Within each center, experienced Program Specialists offer assistance and support to all lab users while teaching digital literacy courses determined by each community's needs. These Specialists have spent 1,028,928 hours in training alone, exceeding project goals by 227 percent.

Meanwhile, 57,069 training participants take free classes ranging from computer basics to multimedia. Our users come to the lab for the technology access and stay to learn how to use it, sometimes for hours in a day! "The skills we teach are skills that will produce long term benefits that enhance quality of life for our participants," says Juanita Budd, Austin Free-Net's executive director. "We are really proud of our training program."`

Source: Houston Chronicle, "Q&A: Bridging the Technology Gap".
(http://www.chron.com/business/technology/article/Q-amp-A-Bridging-the-technology-gap-3360167.php)

Texas Connects Coalition (TXC2) is a collaborative project between Technology For All and Austin Free-Net. TFA is the recipient and manager of a grant for the project from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. With local community relationships, TXC2 provides computer and Internet access, training and more for Texans with limited access to digital opportunities in the Austin, Houston, San Antonio, central Texas and Brazos Valley regions. Get more information at www.txc2.org, www.austinfree.net or www.techforall.org.

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