HOUSTON, TEXAS – DECEMBER 16, 2011

Texas Connects Coalition Quarterly Results Show More Computers Installed, Usage Numbers Up

Houston non-profit Technology For All, Inc. and its partner Austin Free-Net have installed more than 700 computers for unserved and underserved Texans, according to TFA's most recent 2011 quarterly filing with the U.S. Department of Commerce. The two Texas non-profits are coalition members of the Texas Connects Coalition (TXC2).   For years, TFA and AFN have provided computer services to low-income and vulnerable Texas populations.

Speaking after the release of the report, Technology For All President and Chief Executive Office Will Reed commented, "We are grateful to all our public computer center partners for their contributions to the success of the project." The full report, which covers the quarter ending September 30, 2011, shows TXC2 has installed more than 60 percent of the project's proposed total of 1, 254 computer workstations, representing more than 70 percent of total available workstation capacity.

In September 2010, the TXC2 project received federal funds to provide high speed Internet access and computer training under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, a part of the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. In addition to free access and training, the program provides technical support, digital literacy, workforce development, and other services. When completed, TXC2 plans to have computers available in more than 60 public computer centers. Coalition partners are located in Houston, Austin, the San Antonio area, southwest Texas, Duval County, and small rural communities in the Brazos River Valley.

"Without our local community partners, this project could not happen," Reed emphasized. Working with officials at the centers, average users per week grew from 7,270 at the end of June to more than 9,100 by September 30.

TXC2 expanded to almost 40 full time employees, based on increased requirements for system installations and additional training. This represents a gain of eight employees in three months. Both TFA and AFN hired new program specialists and training managers during the quarter. The training

managers provide supervisory leadership, training and support for the program specialists. Specialists deliver training and support at the centers and provide community outreach. All new employees have been recruited from the communities served by the public computer centers.

Also during the quarter, TXC2 negotiated a significant internal structural change concerning sub-recipient Metropolitan Austin Interactive Network (MAIN).   All PCC sites formerly under the MAIN umbrella came under management by lead recipient TFA. As a result of this change, many former MAIN staffers moved into new positions with Technology For All. During this restructuring, TXC2 continued working with existing site partners, bringing new PCC sites online, deploying equipment and workstations, and providing training.

The full current report ending September 30, 2011 and all previous reports are available online at recovery.gov. Use the phrase "Technology For All" in the website's search engine.

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 Technology For All (TFA) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to empower under-resourced communities through the tools of technology. Since 1997, TFA has also provided supportive services with public computer centers and other community technology organizations in 56 U.S. cities. By working together with local community-based organizations, corporations, foundations, technology providers and public entities, TFA creates educational, economic and personal opportunities for low-income persons and the communities in which they live. TFA's offices are located at 2220 Broadway, Houston, Texas 77012. For more information visit www.techforall.org. Phone 713.454.6400.

Austin Free-Net (AFN) is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that since 1995 has provided technology training and access for the community, fostering skills that enable people to succeed in a digital age. Our computer labs and classes are open to all; our focus is on underserved communities. The knowledge we offer helps people obtain jobs, improve their lives, and participate as active citizens. AFN's offices are located at 2209 Rosewood Avenue, Austin, Texas 78702. For more information visit www.austinfree.net. Phone 512.236.8225.

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 Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. By working together, TXC2 provides computer and Internet access, training and other resources for Texans with limited access to digital opportunities in the Austin, Houston, San Antonio, central Texas and Brazos Valley regions. Get more information online at www.txc2.org.