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Microsoft Gives Big

Microsoft recently awarded TFA a software grant worth \$1,734,553 for the Texas Connects Coalition project. Among other resources, this will provide Office 2010 for all installed computers, giving our clients access to the latest programs. The grant is made possible through Microsoft Unlimited Potential, which supports public and private efforts for technology accessibility.

Links

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According to [Connected Texas](#), a quarter million Texas households don't have reliable broadband access.

technologyforall

We empower communities through technology.

Texas Connects Coalition Project Progress Report

Workstations installed:	814
People trained:	20,992
Training hours:	355,900
Average Weekly Users:	10,300
Public Computer Centers total:	60

Houston's New Hotspot East Ender first residential user

The Next Big Thing in broadband is super wifi, a long-range, barrier-piercing wifi network that uses space in the radio spectrum freed after TV's switch from analog to digital signals. And Houston's Leticia Aguirre is the [first residential user](#), thanks to [TFA and Rice University's](#) neighborhood-supporting wireless project. Through these Houston institutions, Aguirre's neighborhood is served by a network reaching over three miles. She calls it "an answer to my prayers."



With this success, TFA's president Will Reed believes the new technology is a gamechanger for areas with scant broadband accessibility. "I think it will work well in rural populations, where it would be very expensive to run wires."

TFA on TV CEO and Program Specialist on Hola Houston

TFA President Will Reed and Program Specialist Ken Cruz were recent guests on Hola Houston, a public affairs program targeting Hispanic communities, to discuss TFA's mission in Houston. [Watch the full interview.](#)

While the Internet is often called an essential daily tool, they explained, many are limited by lack of access or from the knowledge,

Voices From the Lab

TFA introduces our new series, bringing you the personal journeys shared inside each lab. Meet Magda from Mission Milby, who never got to attend school--until now. "This is the first time in years I've started something without stopping because I felt uncomfortable." After a few weeks of class, she's talking about college. *Learn more about Magda and her classmates on our website!*

skills and abilities to use it. TFA fights back in 19 (and counting) Houston centers offering open access to computers and the Internet, plus training and recycling.

In Cruz's lab, hosted in [Misión Milby](#), beginners email and apply for jobs with growing proficiency. "They start opening up when they realize it's a tool." The message, they agree, is simple: in our increasingly digital age, this tool opens a wealth of opportunities.

A Ministry of Hope

TFA brings computers to a church's After School Program



TFA's new computer lab at Ministerio Esperanza en Cristo (Esperanza)'s After School Program is [getting some attention](#). Esperanza, Chapelwood United Methodist Church's Spanish ministry, serves the largest immigrant community in Spring Branch. Through a grant provided by [Texas Connects Coalition](#), of which TFA is a founding nonprofit, they've received 25 new computers, plus other equipment. We will also provide a Program Specialist to assist users with one-on-one help and classroom instruction. Mario Gutierrez, Pastor and Campus Director, told several news outlets, "There is such a buzz in our ... community.... Everyone is excited and ready to learn."

Go [inside the lab](#) with our new [Voices From the Lab](#) series! Meet the students who take time from work to learn computers for their jobs, their children and their future.

[See what else we're doing.](#)
[Help a teen apply for college.](#)