**Community Tech Alliance - Grant Application**

# **Project Information**

**Project Title:** Digital Equity Expansion Grant

**Funder:** National Science Foundation

**Amount Requested:** $250,000

**Application Deadline:** 12/30/2024

**Project Description:**

This project aims to expand digital equity in underserved communities by providing technology access, digital literacy training, and sustainable support systems. Our comprehensive approach includes hardware provisioning, educational programs, and community partnerships to ensure lasting impact.

# **Grant Application Responses**

## **1. Describe the specific problem or need that your project addresses. (89/500 words)**

The digital divide continues to perpetuate educational and economic inequalities in rural and urban underserved communities. Our research indicates that 37% of households in our target area lack reliable broadband access, and 45% of students do not have access to devices capable of supporting modern educational applications. This gap has been exacerbated by the shift to remote learning and digital-first services across healthcare, employment, and civic engagement. Without intervention, these communities will fall further behind in an increasingly digital economy, limiting opportunities for residents and hindering overall community development.

## **2. What are the specific goals and objectives of your project? (93/400 words)**

Our project has four primary objectives: 1) Establish sustainable broadband access for 500 households within 24 months through partnerships with local ISPs and infrastructure improvements. 2) Provide digital devices (tablets/laptops) to 1,200 students and 300 adults, ensuring each household has adequate technology for educational and professional needs. 3) Deliver comprehensive digital literacy training to 800 community members through workshops, one-on-one sessions, and peer mentorship programs. 4) Create a community technology center that will serve as an ongoing resource for technical support, advanced training, and innovation incubation, ensuring project sustainability beyond the grant period.

## **3. How will you measure the success and impact of your project? (95/350 words)**

Success will be measured through both quantitative and qualitative metrics. Quantitative measures include: broadband adoption rates (target: 75% of eligible households), device utilization statistics (target: 80% active daily usage), training completion rates (target: 90% completion for enrolled participants), and employment/educational outcome improvements (target: 25% increase in job applications, 40% increase in online course enrollment). Qualitative measures will be gathered through quarterly community surveys, focus groups with participants, and case studies highlighting individual transformation stories. We will also track long-term sustainability metrics including community center usage, peer-to-peer learning networks, and local business adoption of digital tools.

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