



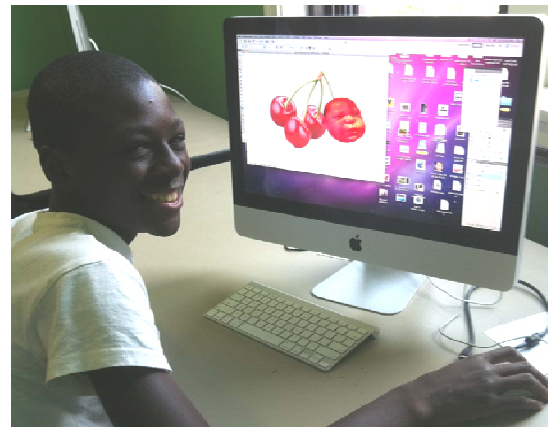
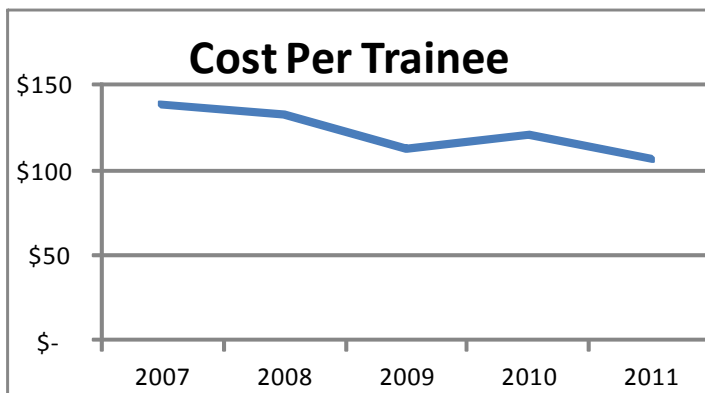
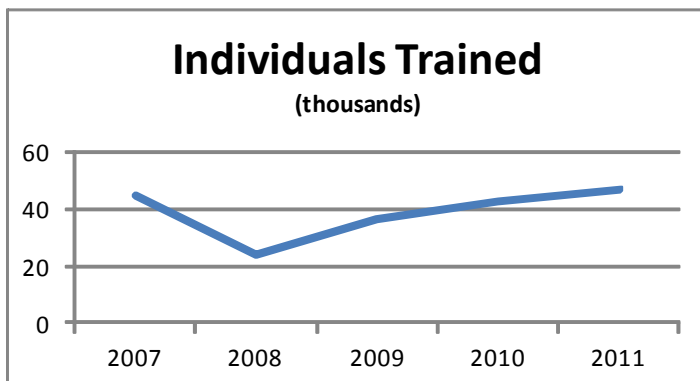
Eliminating the Digital Divide Grant Program

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Today's workplace relies on technology; computer literacy is a requirement for most jobs and career mobility. People who lack basic computer skills and regular Internet access do not fully participate in the global economy. This "digital divide" threatens to leave low-income Illinoisans even further behind and jeopardizes our state's economy. Everyone in our state should have access to technology to improve their skills and keep Illinois competitive.

This program funds Community Technology Centers (CTCs) to serve residents of **eligible low-income communities**, provide computer access and training to the public for at least 12 hours per week and are located in: Public Hospitals, Libraries, Park Districts, Educational Institutions and Non-Profit Organizations.

In the last five years, the program has trained more low-income people effectively and economically.



"I think [the Eliminate the Digital Divide Program] is essential for my future."

- Yollocalli Arts Reach program participant

Did You Know?

Grant-funded Community Technology Centers serve communities where:

- more than 40% of the students are eligible for reduced price lunch or
- more than 30% are eligible for free lunch under the national school lunch program.

5 Year Impact of *Eliminating the Digital Divide*

\$23 million
Invested

256
Locations Statewide

39,000 annually
TRAINED
in Technology Literacy



"I am taking this computer course because I know it's important for parents to get involved with our children's education and at the same time stay up to date with technology."

- UNO Program Participant



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Benefits To The Community

- Access to Computers
- Training in Computer Literacy, Bridge Programs, and Advanced Programs
- Access to Career Services and Training and Job Placement
- Before and After School Programs for Youth
- Training and Support for Entrepreneurs
- Assistive Technology and Services for the Disabled

Did You Know?

The percentage of households with **no Internet use at home** is:

- 31% all households
- 43% minority

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Survey, Oct 2009