



Partnership for a Connected Illinois  
**broadbandillinois.org**



**Lifeline Link-Up**  
UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

# Illinois Lifeline Pilot Collaboration

June 6, 2012



## Agenda

- Introductions
- History of the Lifeline Program
- New FCC Lifeline Pilot
- Digital Literacy Component
- Return on Investment
- Q & A
- Next Steps



# History of Lifeline Program

Allen Cherry, Universal Telephone Access Corporation



## Do you need Local Phone Service, but can't afford it?

You may be eligible for a credit each month to lower the cost of your local phone service.

The Lifeline program provides this benefit to eligible individuals and families.

You're eligible for Lifeline if you participate in any of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Free National School Lunch Program
- Federal Public Housing

To determine your eligibility for Lifeline and to enroll in this program, call your local phone company.

For AT&T call: 1-888-250-5378

For Frontier Communications call: 1-800-683-9703

All others: Call your local telephone company



This program is supported by voluntary contributions. Contributions can be made through monthly donations of between \$0 cents and \$5 on local phone bills or by sending contributions to:  
UTAC, P.O. Box 1175  
Springfield, IL 62708

Contributions are deductible on income taxes to the extent allowed by law.

A Message from the Universal Service Telephone Program  
P.O. Box 1175, Springfield, Illinois 62708



## New FCC Lifeline Pilot

Lacey Buss, Partnership for a Connected Illinois

### The Pilot Opportunity

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launches competition to identify the best ways to increase broadband adoption among low-income Americans.
- Winners will receive funding for Lifeline pilot projects that test how best to increase adoption of high-speed Internet among low-income Americans, a group with strikingly low adoption levels.
- Data will enable the FCC to evaluate how best to structure the program in the future.
- Encourages partnerships, as the funding from FCC only goes toward the discounted service.
- \$25 Million in total to be awarded to “a relatively small number of projects.”

## Factors the Bureau will Consider in Choosing Pilot Projects

- **Discount Plans**
  - May include variations in the amount of the discount, the length the discount is applied, and whether the discount amount is applied to recurring or non-recurring charges.
  - Project may vary in other dimensions of the broadband service, including speed and usage limits.
- **Customer Outreach**
  - Effectiveness of customer outreach methods aimed at overcoming adoption hurdles.
- **Digital Literacy**
  - Preference given to projects that include partnerships with groups that already have existing adoption programs in place to provide digital literacy.
- **Affordable Equipment**
  - The extent to which pilot projects test whether access to equipment can influence adoption.

## Roles

- **ETC**
  - Submit Application
  - Discount Plans
  - Billing/Reimbursement from FCC
  - Marketing/Outreach
  - Data Sharing
  - Leverage Funding
- **PCI**
  - Coordinate Collaboration
  - Assist with Application
  - Seed Funding for Digital Literacy & Affordable Equipment
  - Assistance with Research and Data Gathering
- **Training Entity**
  - Digital Literacy Training
  - Access to Affordable Equipment
  - Assistance with Marketing/Outreach
  - Data Sharing
- **ICC and UTAC**
  - Collaboration Support

## Details

- Application deadline is July 2, 2012.
- Winners notified between September to December 2012.
- 12 months of subsidized broadband service either through bundles of voice and broadband services or as standalone broadband service.
- 3 months before and 3 months after for “back-end” work and data collection.
- Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) can do the data collection for no cost.
- FCC award will be used solely for program subsidy.
- ETC can choose the levels of subsidy provided and fees subsidized.
- Subscriber eligibility is expected to be similar to the current Lifeline Voice.
- ETC has flexibility in how to design their own pilot experiment.
- Requires a randomized control group.
  - Example: Zip Code A gets just discount; Zip Code B gets discount and training

## Digital Literacy Component

Gina Baxter, Connected Living



## About Connected Living, Inc.

- Private company based in Boston, founded in 2007.
- Experts in getting low-income seniors connected.
- Innovative adoption programs in public sector housing: Atlanta, Boston, DC, Greensboro, and Chicago.
- Currently in over 150 communities in 18 states.
- Awardee of \$7.2 Million from the National Telecommunications Information Association (NTIA) to bring program to underserved populations through Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).



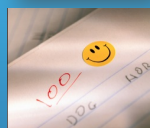
Help the tech-timid use a computer and adopt broadband as a necessary life skill—Program participants will learn how to use entertainment, education, wellness, social media, government resource websites



Access to simple, easy to learn, safe, secure Computer Training & Socialization website, Connected Living Network



Sustainable programs through Volunteer Trainers to teach ongoing classes if desired



Simple curriculum designed to help the new computer learner master beginner and intermediate skills



Potential of Laptops and Refurbished computers to Program Graduates



Trained and Experienced Trainers provide group instruction and 1:1 coaching



Assistance for home-based broadband sign up



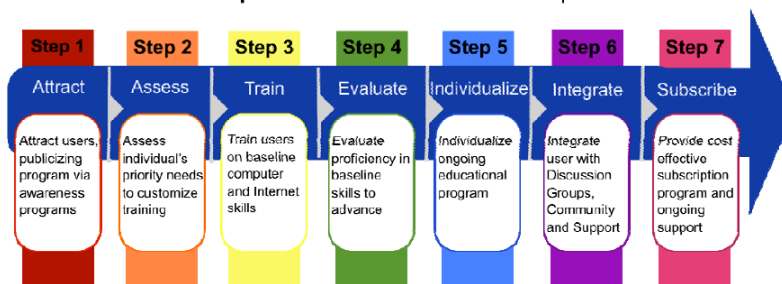
Use of existing Computer Lab with Internet Connection



Ongoing Evaluation and Reporting (Strong partnership with Northern Illinois University)

# Internet Awareness + Computer Training = Broadband Adoption

## Connected Living Adoption and Sustainability Program Seven Steps to Sustainable Broadband Adoption



## The "Secret Sauce" Connected Living Network



## Connected Living as a Partner for FCC Broadband Adoption Lifeline Pilot Program

- Experienced in delivering Computer Training Programs to unique low-income, unserved and underserved population
- Knowledgeable in various training methodologies and tools needed to teach unserved and underserved senior and/or disabled demographic population
- Demonstrated success in achieving established training and adoption goals
- Strong reputation with Federal, State and Corporate Partners
- Strong ties with communities we serve
- Committed to the notion that “Doing well by doing good” brings ongoing success to all involved



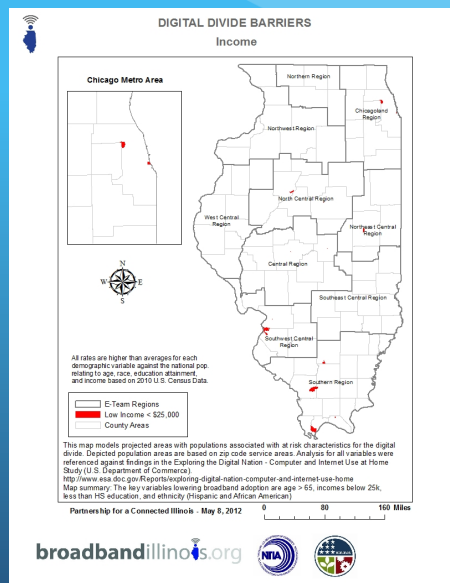
## ETC Return on Investment

What is the benefit for participation?



## Benefits to ETC

- Potential exposure as a best practice.
- Broadened customer base/potential for more customers.
- Get a head start on the use of subsidy funds before the 2014 nationwide rollout.
- Involvement in a pilot project with the FCC.
- Being involved in an adoption and usage marketing opportunity.
- Opportunity to give back and work with an underserved population.





Questions?



If you are an interested ETC or  
have additional questions, please  
contact:

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