

Loaning a computer is not enough

Overcoming Barriers to Technology

Supporting Clients in a Virtual Environment

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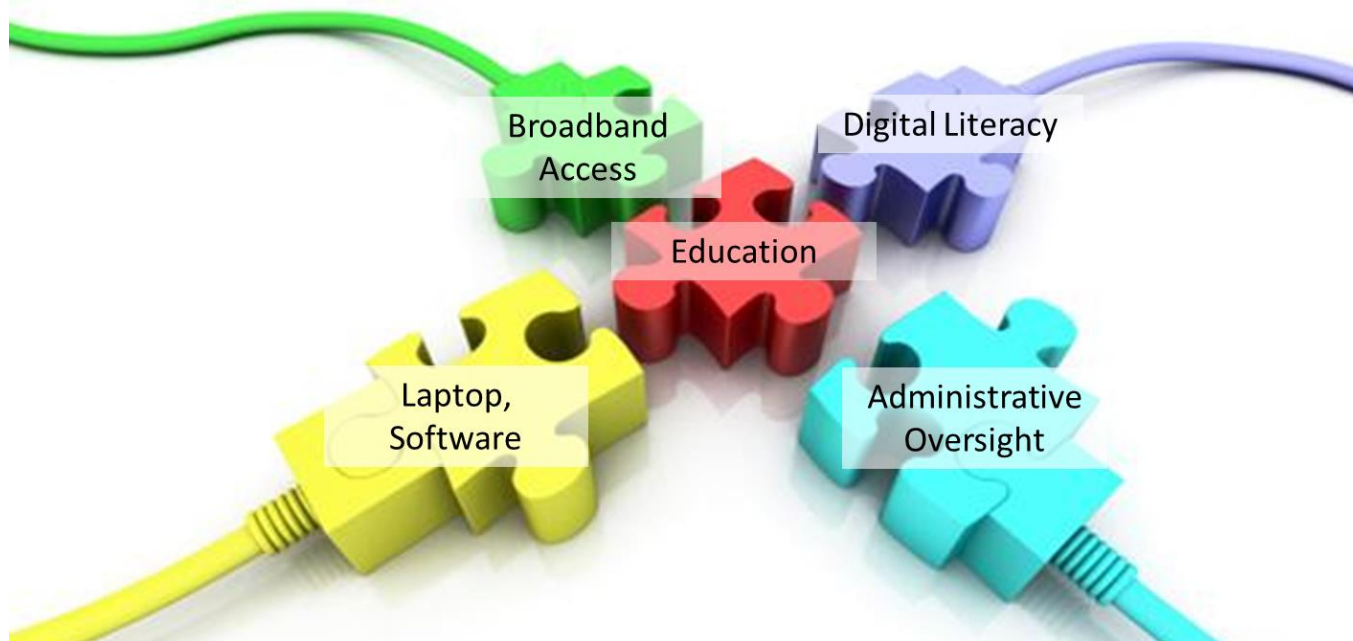
What are we talking about?



- Education is the number one thing that lifts people from poverty
- Internet connectivity equals opportunity
- In-home Internet access must be viewed as an essential modern utility

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Four elements needed to make this work



Health Profession Opportunity Grant



A key element of the Edmonds HPOG Grant 2010-present



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Benefits of connectivity that most of us take for granted

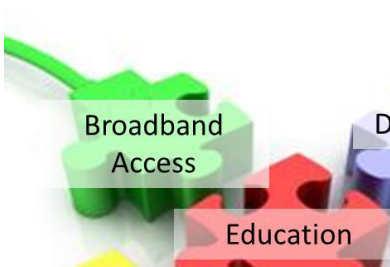


Laptops and Software



Fully equipped HP or Dell laptop in the home
Trust building -- Loan with opportunity to earn
Replacement and Tech support available

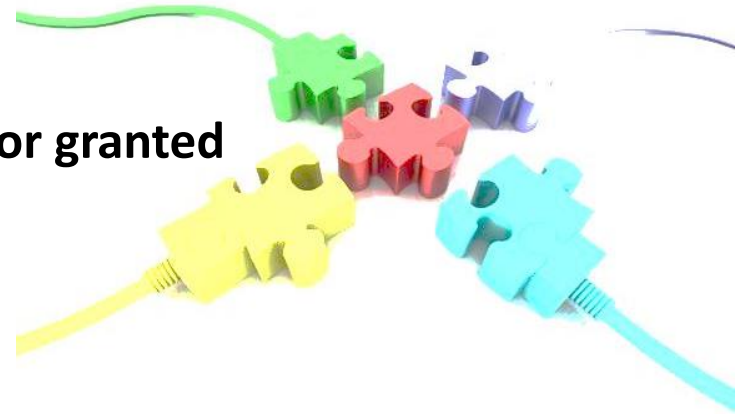
Broadband Access



Dependable access Mobile Verizon Hotspot
Saves transportation and childcare
Wifi the whole family can use

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Benefits of connectivity that most of us take for granted



Digital Literacy



Computer courses -- from keyboarding to MS Office
Tutoring
Meet them where they are

Community Building with administrative oversight



High Expectations
Accountability
Coordination with regional TANF program

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Positive impact for students and their children!



“Having access to internet and also a reliable laptop computer has greatly impacted my daily life in very positive ways. I feel more connected; I feel I have access to more tools I can use at my leisure; I feel I have access to more options for employment; I feel I have more choices with my schooling and the ability to attend classes. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.”

“It enabled me to participate when needed and when I could – as I worked while attending school and I am a single parent. Had I not received a computer with internet service I would not have been able to participate in this life changing opportunity. Thank you ! :o)”



“It has changed my life and my access to further my education. My children have always known more than I when it came to the PC but now I can proudly say I am an educated and experienced user of a PC. Thank YOU CATCH for giving me the freedom to GROW!!”

“Receiving my new laptop was a defining moment in my life... I am so grateful to have this powerful tool and resource.”

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Results



A quick unscientific poll

47% Did not have a computer or reliable internet access at home

41% Used it daily to research employment opportunities and another 13% did so weekly

76% Used it daily to complete school assignments

41% Used it daily to communicate with staff or faculty and another 24% used it 4-6 times a week

12% Used it daily to communicate with other social service providers.

They set an example for their children and provide internet access for their education

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Thank You

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