COLORADO'S PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS: Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide

This Fast Facts presents data summarizing equipment installation, digital literacy efforts, and computer use in Colorado during the two-year Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant project, from April 2011 to March 2013. For more insight into the project, visit www.lrs.org/btop-evaluation and read previous Fast Facts covering class participant satisfaction survey results and workforce efforts and partnerships, as well as an outcome evaluation report.



EQUIPMENT

One portion of the project funds was directed to computer equipment and broadband internet access. Around the state, Public Computer Centers (PCCs) were installed or enhanced at 88 libraries, tribes, town halls, and other community spaces. Equipment included laptops, tablets, desktops, and ADA stations, along with other materials needed for training and public use.

DIGITAL LITERACY

Another portion of the BTOP funds was directed toward offering computer training classes and open-access sessions for patrons to build digital literacy skills. Formal classes included subjects like Microsoft Word, Facebook, job search basics, free software, and cloud computing. Open access times allowed patrons free rein on PCC machines. Library staff assisted patrons through both unscheduled and scheduled one-on-one tutoring sessions.





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