



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF DANE COUNTY

Pilot Project Idea to address the "Digital Divide" in Madison

Project Contacts

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Coalition members

BGCDC has met with DANEnet, and is interested in collaborating with other partners including the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) and property management firms of nearby apartment complexes. MMSD's Phoenix Program is housed at the Taft Site, and the MMSD Technology Plan calls for all students to eventually be issued devices.

Reaching the Target Audience

The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County (BGCDC) operates two sites and serves thousands of people each year. The Taft Site is located at 2001 Taft Street in the heart of South Madison. The Allied Site is located at 4619 Jenewein Road on the edge of Madison. BGCDC serves primarily disadvantaged children and youth, many of whom are children of color. BGCDC members range in age from 7 – 18. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of BGCDC members qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, a common indicator of poverty status. Ninety-three percent (93%) are children of color, predominately African American. Children come to the Club every day after school and for eight weeks of full-time summer programming. Both sites are located next to multi-unit apartment complexes (e.g., Quaker Housing, a non-profit apartment community of low-income seniors). These sites are surrounded by and serve people who experience the digital divide first hand.

Project Concept

BGCDC contracts with DANEnet, a non-profit organization, for on-site technical support and technical planning and consulting services. In response to the City of Madison's request for pilot project ideas to address the Digital Divide in Madison, BGCDC staff consulted with DANEnet staff. BGCDC is interested in working with DANEnet to develop both BGCDC sites into hubs for low band-width wireless internet access in the areas of the City of Madison served by BGCDC. Both BGCDC sites and the nearby apartment complexes would have access to 1-5 mb of bandwidth that would allow Club members, community members, and apartment residents to access internet items such as the news, email, and information on City resources (e.g., Madison Metro Bus).

BGCDC's vision is that, with the help of the City of Madison, we will be able to offer the following:

- **Computer Lab Access** at the Allied Site 9 a.m. to 1p.m. Monday through Friday, and 4 hours on Saturday and Sunday for community members to access the internet on BGCDC devices, MMSD devices issued to students, and/or their own personal devices.

- **Computer Lab Access** at the Taft Site for 8 hours on Saturdays and 8 hours on Sundays for community members to access the internet on BGCDC devices, MMSD devices issued to students, and/or their own personal devices.
- **Extended WIFI Access** to cover more of the neighborhoods surrounding the Allied and Taft BGCDC sites.

In order to bring these services to Madison's digitally divided neighborhoods, support the additional wear on resources, and ensure that users can reliably access the internet at BGCDC sites, BGCDC would also require the following:

- New up to date computers and software for both sites.
- A three year service agreement on the hardware and software for both sites.
- Updated Servers for both sites.
- Networked Printers for both sites to be placed in the computer labs.
- Overhead Projector and Screen for the Allied Site.
- Cost for Computer Lab Monitors wages and payroll taxes to cover open lab hours.

BGCDC can make a one year guarantee for community access to the sites and a multi-year commitment for the WIFI.

Starczewski, Leslie

Subject: FW: Boys & Girls Club of Dane County

From: Marcie Soderbloom [<mailto:msoderbloom@bgcdc.org>]

Sent: Monday, April 28, 2014 2:42 PM

To: Kronberger, Paul

Cc: Karen Gallagher

Subject: Boys & Girls Club of Dane County

Hi Mr. Kronberger,

The Boys & Girls Club of Dane County is considering forwarding an idea for the City's Digital Technology Committee's Pilot Projects to address the Digital Divide. At this time, our planning team has a few questions about the nature of the Pilot Projects.

1. Our understanding is that funds are available to ensure that children without access to the internet and technology have the opportunity to access it reliably. Specifically, would Pilot Project had expenses including a) purchasing new computers and b) hiring a staff member to coordinate the Pilot Project be allowed?
2. Are there specific requirements regarding access to technology purchased with these funds (e.g., would the Club be required to have a computer lab open to the community)?
3. Would updating the Club's technology infrastructure (e.g., converting storage and back up to the cloud) be an allowable expense?

We understand that the nature of the competition is to be open to ideas, and we want to make sure we're not too far afield from the intent of the project.

Thanks for any clarity you can provide, or please redirect me to the appropriate person.

Sincerely, Marcie

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