Get Connected! **Inland Empire Update**
2011 Activities & Upcoming 2012 Events
January 3, 2012

Background
The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) first launched *Get Connected!* as a public awareness program in Los Angeles conducting promotions through TV, radio, print, and websites to educate the public about the importance of broadband access, how to get broadband access and how to use is safely. The program has been expanded with the *Get Connected!* Roundtable Series and activities throughout California. A wide range of local organizations in the Inland Empire including health providers, community - based organizations, government agencies, small businesses, libraries, and schools have been participating in the *Get Connected!* Inland Empire program to share resources and collaborate to bring new resources to the region.

Get Connected! Inland Empire conducted three regional roundtables in 2011 with participation from 44 organizations throughout San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. On February 24, 2011, CETF and the United Way of the Inland Empire invited community leaders to the first roundtable to help raise awareness about how the Digital Divide affects their communities. Participants discussed how different clients and constituents can benefit from digital literacy and access to broadband. The group also created an inventory of existing resources in the Inland Empire.

The second *Get Connected!* Inland Empire roundtable in the series was hosted by the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino on April 21, 2011. The Center for Accessible Technology led the discussion about accessibility for people with disabilities and seniors. Online curricula resources were demonstrated and distributed for the use of *Get Connected!* partners. Participants learned about California's broadband infrastructure and the potential for health care technology applications to drive economic development in the Inland Empire from the Alliance for the Commercialization of Technology.

Workforce Development and Broadband Applications for Small Business were the topics of the Roundtable hosted by the Inland Empire Women's Business Center (IEWBC) on August 31, 2011 in Corona. The IEWBC gave a presentation about how small business can grow when they have access to broadband for advertising, sales, and training on Digital Literacy for business. The group discussed important role that Digital Literacy plays in developing a strong workforce able to support economic growth in the Inland Empire. Leaders from the newly formed Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium shared their plans to apply for funds from the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC).

Computer Help Day
Get Connected! partners including AccessNow, The City of San Bernardino, CETF, and United Way of the Inland Empire sponsored a Computer Help Day on December 10, 2011 at the Feldheym Central Library in San Bernardino. Volunteer technicians offered free diagnostic assistance for 22 attendees who brought in their computers.   A presentation was given on the importance of home broadband connection and online services provided by city governments. In addition, about 100 people received information about

affordable broadband programs and digital literacy training, with some receiving individual tutoring in the Mobile Lab from Southeast Cities Development Corporation.

Coming Up for 2012
In addition to supporting additional events like Computer Help Days in other cities throughout the Inland Empire, *Get Connected!* partners will be collaborating with non-profits and government agencies to promote the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Residents of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties missed out on over $160 million of EITC funds in 2009. The *Get Connected!* network is joining other community asset building organizations to provide free assistance in applying for both the EITC and broadband services.

Please contact us if you would like more information on joining *Get Connected!* Inland Empire, collaborating on events and services, or bringing *Get Connected!* events to your community.
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