

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

LOS ANGELES FACT FINDING CONVERSATION WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS FEBRUARY 7, 2007

– ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT OVERVIEWS –

Name of Organization	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNOLOGIES CENTER (CDTECH)
Name(s) of Principal(s) and Complete Titles	Denise Fairchild, Ph.D. - President
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Name of Program or Project (if different from organization)	CDTech Link
Geographic Location or Focus of Program or Project	South Los Angeles with specific technology access and training strategies in the community of Vernon-Central.
Demographic Overview of Focus Community or Population	The economic future of the Vernon-Central neighborhood and the residents within this South Los community is dependent upon the availability and utilization of 21 st Century information and communication technologies (ICT). The purposeful, strategic and appropriate use of ICT is critical to mitigating widespread and multiple barriers to their educational, economic and social success. ICT strategies and resources are needed to fit a demographic that is: largely foreign born, Latino, under the age of 18, living in poverty and either uneducated or poorly educated. The simple facts are: over 100,000 residents live in the area; 85% are Latino; more than 50% of whom are not fluent in English. The tragedy, however, is that over a third of the adults have not graduated from high school and almost 40% of the population falls below the poverty level. While most residents are considered working poor, 13% of the community does not work. The inter-generational nature of this impoverishment and the dismal prospects for change are evidenced in the deplorable educational statistics of the youth. Jefferson and Santee High Schools are among the two lowest performing schools in the State with Academic Performance Index (API) scores of 457 and 449 (out of 1000), respectively. And, contrary to trends within the State, these scores declined rather than improved between 2005 and 2006.
Description of Program or Project named above	Increase the competitiveness of low-income communities and residents in the regional economy through increasing access to state-of-the-art technology and building the capacity of residents, youth and businesses to utilize basic and advanced applications.
o Goals	
o Objectives	Objective 1: Expand and improve current business development initiatives and support services in South Los Angeles through a wide-range of computer technologies. Objective 2: Reduce joblessness and underemployment in South Los Angeles through technology training. Objective 3: Improve academic outcomes for middle school and high school aged youth in South Los Angeles.
o Strategies	o Provide the community with an open access state-of-the-art computer center. o Provide workforce training in partnership with L.A. Trade Technical College (a community college) through the

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	<p>Electronics and CIS Departments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide small business assistance through neighborhood-based Small Business Technology Assistance and Career Center. ○ Provide access to the EITC and computer-based financial education and improve credit ratings using <i>Community Empower</i> online credit assessment. ○ Engage in region-wide advocacy through Angelenos for Equitable Access to Technology.
○ Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Built a state-of-the-art community-based technology and training facility. ○ Train residents and youth in IT applications and cabling. ○ Provide financial literacy and credit repair. ○ Built small business technology capacity and networked communications. ○ Addressing disability access.
○ Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Opened a 2,000 square foot community technology center (CDTech Link) with 20 state-of-the-art computers, open access and business technology training is available to area businesses. ▪ Initiated MetroEdge LA, the first of its kind, is a web-based economic development information system to help start-up and existing micro-enterprises identify market potential of inner-city neighborhoods. It is available for micro-enterprises to use for business planning and financing purposes. ▪ Piloted 4 courses with 26 Central Avenue merchants to increase computer access and business communication/development. Courses were taught in Spanish and participants learned to use software to translate English language text into Spanish. ▪ Trained 262 residents in Introduction to Computer, CISCO Networking, Computer Repair and C-Tech Cabling – exceeding projected goals by over 250%; 30% of students achieved CISCO Certification; 60% certified in C-Tech cabling classes. ▪ 15% found jobs in the IT field and 40% continued their education.
○ Brief History (when was the organization founded or when was the program launched?)	<p>CDTech’s community technology center opened in the Vernon-Central community in 2003 and has been an oasis of technology access and capacity. While the Center offers both open access and technology training for over 800 youth, adults and businesses a year, CDTech has not kept up with local demand, or the rapid advances in information and communication technologies. Increasingly CDTech is asked to strengthen the technology capacity (hardware and software) of local schools (the Accelerated School, Carver Middle School, Jefferson and Santee High) and community based organizations, as well as residents. CDTech Link is an essential provider of community technology services without the requisite 21st Century capacity to meet the far ranging needs and newest technologies.</p>
○ Size and Magnitude of Program or Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services are available to 4,000 businesses with 51,000 workers. Local businesses have been targeted for specific technology development. • Population of Vernon-Central is 100,000 residents. • CDTech Link serves over 800 residents and businesses a year.
• Annual Budget, Percentage of Earned Income and Staff	<p>CDTech Link \$250,000; 5 FTE CDTech \$1.2 million; 14 FTE</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources 	<p>Current: James Irvine Foundation \$150,000; WAMU \$10,000. Previous: HUD \$200,000; California Consumer Protection Foundation \$50,000. Other partners: Concerned Citizens of South Los Angeles, Dunbar EDC, LATTTC, Special Services for Groups, A Place Called Home and the Community Organizing Technology Centers Network.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results and Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics for Evaluation Progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # served. ▪ Certification achieved. ▪ % of employment in IT field; continuing education. ▪ Increases in applied knowledge and access for residents and businesses and students; insure no groups are left out. ▪ Improved academic proficiency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in Outcomes or Metrics Over Time • How long does it take to secure results for the program above? 	<p>Moving from outputs to measurable change in people’s lives and increasing incomes along with integrating into the regional economy; replicating success in other neighborhoods and going to scale</p> <p>It takes one semester of instruction to significantly improve access and proficiency.</p>