

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

Please email your organization profile to info@cetfund.org.

ORGANIZATION PROFILE: ORGANIZATION NAME DATE

– ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT OVERVIEWS –

Name of Organization	LOS ANGELES OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER
Name(s) of Principal(s) and Complete Titles	Chris L. Floyd, Executive Director/CEO
Contact Information (complete)	2930 West Imperial Hwy; Suite 514; Inglewood, CA 90303 323-754-3116 (Voice); 323-756-1008 (Fax); chris.floyd@laaic.org
Name of Program or Project (if different from organization)	Reading Companion
Geographic Location or Focus of Program or Project	Central, West & South Los Angeles and South Bay Area
Demographic Overview of Focus Community or Population	We provide vocational and job readiness training for residents of Los Angeles County, starting at ages 18 and above, more specifically drawing from Central, West and South Los Angeles; Inglewood and the South Bay areas. The community in a 10-mile radius of Los Angeles OIC is made up of an African American and Hispanic population with a household income of less than \$35,000 annually. Our primary outreach is to the unemployed and under employed, welfare-to-work, foster care, emancipated foster care, probation and ex-offender populations offering educational and vocational options to counter these discouraging statistics. More than any other population we serve, we provide supplementary services to this city's foster care and former foster care youth, who have not had the benefit of a stable family life nor role models to emulate for success. In Los Angeles County alone 45.5% of children in foster care are African American and 37.2% are Latino. Each year 1,800 foster youth emancipate from foster care and 45% of these emancipate directly onto the streets or end up on the streets within six weeks of being independent. ¹ Therefore our basic education, life skills and financial literacy education modules are skewed heavily towards them, and performance measures are provided to DCFS on a continual basis.
Description of Program or Project named above o Goals	Through the use of technology we intend to improve the literacy of the students and parents in the area we serve. There are six high schools and thirty two elementary schools in the immediate area. Through Reading Companion we will facilitate improved reading scores at the elementary level, incorporate the parents of the involved students by training their parents on the internet-based program so they can assist their child at home. Provide computers and broadband connectivity at home for those students and parents who effectively participate in Reading Companion.

¹ Homeless Youth Fact Sheet.

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

	Our goal is to illustrate to the three school districts that we serve that this is a mechanism that will not only improve the student reading scores but will have an ancillary effect of improving child/parent relationships and improve parents computer and educational literacy.
o Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve reading scores in elementary schools 2. Improve scholastic scores by improving reading and comprehension. 3. Increase parental involvement in the child's educational process. 4. Provide donated computers and broadband connection to homes where parent has been trained to assist child in the Reading Companion program at home. 5. Workforce development by improving the value of the human capital.
o Strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train youth 2. Involve parents 3. Increase number of schools focusing on reading and comprehension 4. Use technology as delivery vehicle while providing access to other venues and opportunities.
o Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue in-house adult education using Reading Companion. 2. Obtain parental approval for child's participation. 3. Involve two elementary schools in after school training of twenty students two times per week for 1.5 hours each day. 4. Train parents 5. Measure outcomes at the mid-year 2008 mark. 6. Incorporate more schools in catchments area.
o Outcomes	With this project we expect to expand our current outreach to include our community schools. We hope to reach younger children and assist them so that they do not end up as our clients later in life. The parents of these children who are in need of assistance will be added to the LAOIC client list and we hope that we can help them with their own literacy and skills issues. Reading Companion conducted independent evaluations of the technology that demonstrate that children who use the software tested significantly higher on word recognition and comprehension tasks. For adults, the software not only improved reading skills but also helped improve their English pronunciation; it also provided adults with an opportunity to learn in a new way by combining visual and auditory methods. We will work with the schools to track the students' progress by collecting data on all assessment tests given in school and all reading grades throughout the pilot year. In addition, we will collect CAT-6 reading test scores once they are sent to the school and parent.
o Brief History (when was the organization founded or when was the program launched?)	<p><u>OIC America History</u> - In response to the gang violence on the streets of Philadelphia by unemployed, and apathetic youth, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan and 400 other ministers responded with the first Opportunities Industrialization Center. In 1964 their first site was an abandoned police station in North Philadelphia providing human resources and job related services to disadvantaged people and to those experiencing artificial barriers to employment.</p> <p><u>Los Angeles OIC Beginnings</u> - In response to the growing gang violence in South Los Angeles, the Los Angeles</p>

5 Third Street, Suite 520 | San Francisco, CA 94103 | P 415.744.CETF (2383) F 415.744.2399

www.cetfund.org

1000 Alameda Street | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | P 213.346.3222 F 213.808.1009

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

	OIC branch opened in that community in 1994 thanks to the philanthropy of Chevron/Texaco, IBM, Toyota and other generous corporations that have assured its longevity. The goal is the same, to provide human resources and job related services to disadvantaged people and to those experiencing artificial barriers to employment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Size and Magnitude of Program or Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of People Served, Involved, Impacted 	Initially the Reading Companion program will serve forty elementary school age youth. Each child will require at least one parent to be involved to support activities at home or forty adults. Exponential growth will take place after the first year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Budget, Percentage of Earned Income and Staff 	\$52,000; 2 Full Time Employees; 2 part time employees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Sources and Partners 	Current: Toyota, Union Bank, Southern California Edison Partners: IBM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Results and Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics for Evaluation Progress 	CAT-6 Test scores Overall grade averages. Better reading and comprehension should improve all grade scores.
<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? 	Outcomes will be easily measured by the CAT-6 reading scores of the participating students given in May 2008. Measurements will be obvious at the quarter marks throughout the year and at the June 2008 testing results.

Note: By submitting the Organization Profile you are agree that the:

- Your Organization expressly grants permission to post the submitted information in a public area of the CETF website,
- Statements and representations made about your non-profit are true and contain falsehoods, and
- Your Organization will keep the information updated either on its own or at the prompting of CETF to ensure that it remains true and accurate reflects the current status and historical operating results of your organization.

You also give CETF the right to share the information with its Board, officers, employees and agents in printed documents as the Fund seeks to share examples.

Please email your organization profile to info@cetfund.org.