

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

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ORGANIZATION PROFILE: YOUTH POLICY INSTITUTE

06/28/2007

– ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT OVERVIEWS –

Name of Organization	YOUTH POLICY INSTITUTE
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Name of Program or Project (if different from organization)	The Valley Family Technology Project
Geographic Location or Focus of Program or Project	The East San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles (Pacoima community)
Demographic Overview of Focus Community or Population	<p>98% of families served by Youth Policy Institute in the Valley Family Technology Project are low income, while 93% are Latino. Target population lives in the community of Pacoima in Los Angeles. One of the poorest communities in the city, 93% of students in local public schools are eligible for the federal free and reduced price lunch program, a leading indicator of family poverty, according to the California Department of Education. 52% of the Pacoima population speaks Spanish at home, while 26% is functionally illiterate, according to City of Los Angeles and local university studies.</p> <p>The San Fernando Gardens is the only public housing facility operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) in the San Fernando Valley, and it is where the majority of families served in the Valley Family Technology Project reside. The San Fernando Gardens contains 448 units and 1,621 residents. Of these, 48% are under the age of 18 (778 youth). The average annual income is \$18,000, more than 45% less than the Los Angeles median family income.</p>
Description of Program or Project named above <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Goals 	<p>The Valley Family Technology Project seeks to provide training in internet and broadband technology as well as complete home computer systems for 300 low income families over the next three years (100 families each year). The program will also provide broadband access, training, and resources for the 400 families who have already graduated from the program, and have computers in their home, but with dial-up Internet service. Numerous studies have demonstrated that although the gap is closing, African-American and Latino families lack access to computer technology, and particularly broadband services. VFTP seeks to close this gap, not just by providing computer systems for the home, but also by provide access to a wide range of resources available only through broadband. Our organization will work with ORCMac to make these resources described below available online, and will work with existing VFTP partners, including UCLA, Los Angeles Mission College, and the North Valley Occupational Center (LAUSD Division of Adult and Career Services) to provide online resources for adults and</p>

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	youth.
o Objectives	300 new families (100 families each year for three years) will be provided with computer literacy training and receive complete computer systems (including broadband Internet) in their homes. 400 Existing families already have computer systems, and will receive Broadband alone. All 700 families will participate in online learning for adults and youth (average of three members per family for a total of 2,100 participants).
o Strategies	The overall strategy is to build an awareness and use of Internet and broadband resources for 700 low income and predominantly Latino families (2,100 participants) in the Pacoima community of Los Angeles. The program will work with the Macrovolt division of ORCMacro to offer resources of YPI and partners online for the 700 families as well as other residents. Resources provided will include the use of non-linear digital video/audio editing systems, video and motion graphics, stock music, text and media file conversion, and studio time plus the use of cameras, microphones and lights. This will be used in online workshops and curricula related to adult literacy, ESL, job search strategies, interview preparation for adults and older youth. For younger youth (under the age of 16) services provided by YPI will include homework assistance and project-based learning.
o Actions	The project will rely on experience serving low income families in the Pacoima community for the past six years with computer technology. It relies on formative evaluations conducted quarterly as well as a summative evaluation each year and at the end of program services. This will build the necessary infrastructure required to scale the implementation of VFPT to the level described here.
o Outcomes	100% of family members completing the Computer Literacy and Internet Safety course will pass an assessment test demonstrating that they understand principles of computer operation, Internet access, steps to prevent identity theft online, and steps to protect children online. They will demonstrate proficiency in email, and key Microsoft Office applications, such as Word. After three years of program service, it is expected that income for the 700 families will rise from an average of \$18,000 per year to \$24,000 per year. For youth enrolled in K-12 schools the effect of the program will allow them to show a 12% improvement in their English/Language Arts score on the California Standards Test compared to before entry in the program.
o Brief History (when was the organization founded or when was the program launched?)	A 501c3 nonprofit organization since 1983, the Youth Policy Institute (YPI) has provided education, training, and technology services for low income families in California since 1996. Over the past six years, the organization has focused on the East San Fernando Valley and Pico Union/Westlake communities of Los Angeles, and now serves over 12,000 adults and youth each year. The organization offers charter schools, afterschool services, workforce development training, day laborer centers, supplemental educational services, tutoring and college preparation services, and technology ownership programs to help low income families. The Valley Family Technology Project began in 2001 has a partnership among the Youth Policy Institute, then-Los Angeles City Council President Alex Padilla, and other government and private supporters to bring computer technology to low income families. These families had children attending the fourth grade at Pacoima elementary School in the East San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Size and Magnitude of Program or Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of People Served, Involved, Impacted 	<p>400 low income families have been served in the Valley Family Technology Project since 2001. These low income families in the East San Fernando Valley have received a 60 hour course in computer literacy, Internet safety and useful resources online for children and adults, such as job search. Each enrolled family completes a 60 hour computer literacy course and receives a complete computer system free of charge. These resources will be offered online in the future with the support of the Fund. Families also enroll in youth and adult education services, including job training provided by YPI and partners. 400 families have graduated from the program and now have computers and Internet access in their homes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Budget, Percentage of Earned Income and Staff 	<p>The Valley Family Technology Project has an annual budget of \$1,001,340 and 16 staff members.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding Sources and Partners 	<p>California State Senator Alex Padilla, California Department of Education, Los Angeles Community Development Department, Los Angeles Unified School District, California Employment Development Department, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, ORCMacro, UCLA, Pacoima Chamber of Commerce, Pacoima Charter Elementary School.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results and Evidence of Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics for Evaluation Progress 	<p>VFPT conducts assessments of families when graduating from the program to assess that they have mastered fundamentals of operating a computer, using email, navigating the Internet, and accessing important learning resources online. The assessment also tests knowledge of Internet safety for children and awareness of online identity theft. The program also surveys graduates of VFPT six months after they exit the program to review how clients are using technology to help with school, with jobs and with adult learning.</p>
<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>Clients master principles of computer use after a 60 hour training course described above. It is expected that the more ambitious use of online learning will require an additional 20 hours of training, which will be incorporated into the course. Families will also be expected to engage in online learning, which will be assessed through a password system required by each use. This is why we expect to serve a maximum of 100 families each year for three years in the expanded Valley Family Technology Project. Full results, including changes in income status and improvements in standardized test scores, are expected to be complete at the end of three years of service.</p>

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