Digital Excellence Demonstration Communities
Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, and Englewood

Southwest "Smart Communities" Initiative (SSCI)

Digitally & Socially Linking (DSL)
our Communities

Southwest Smart Communities Initiative (SSCI)
Project Steering Committee

☐	Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corp.	Carlos Nelson
☐	Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corp.	Ernest Sanders
☐	Greater Southwest Development Corp.	Donna Stites
☐	Southwest Organizing Project	David McDowell
☐	Teamwork Englewood	Rodney Walker
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☐	Southwest Digital Planning District	Norma Sanders
☐	Southwest Digital Planning District	Marvin Parks
☐	Teska Associates	Scott Goldstien
☐	Local Initiatives Support Corporation / LISC Chicago	Carl Vogel
☐	Inter-city Muslim Action Network (IMAN)	Veronica Zapata

SSCI Partners

Digital Excellence Demonstration Communities
City of Chicago | LISC/Chicago New Communities Program

☐ Formally known and Digital Excellence Demonstration Communities, the Smart Communities Initiative (SCI) is part of the City of Chicago's Digital Excellence Initiative and is being administered by LISC/Chicago and its New Communities Program (NCP).

☐ There are five NCP communities participating in the Smart Communities Initiative:
  ➢ *Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Pilsen and Humboldt Park*

SSCI Vision

- ☐ We envision using technology to connect these three neighborhoods and reduce the physical and psychological barriers that have hampered their cooperation and slowed their collective progress.

- ☐ We also envision using technology to address common challenges across our communities, while stimulating economic development and continuing to revitalize our neighborhoods.

SSCI Target Audiences

☐ Small Businesses

☐ Youth and Seniors

☐ People with Criminal Records

☐ Workforce Development

☐ Undocumented Immigrants

SSCI Goals

☐ **Mindsets**
- ■ Work to expand community awareness around technology through training and increased access

☐ **Education/training**
- ■ Partner local colleges as hub for Business Training
- ■ Grow our community technology centers from primary access points into best in class training sites including items that may be out of reach for most households.

SSCI Goals

- ## Hardware

  - We will provide *affordable* and *appropriate* hardware Starting in community technology centers and moving into businesses, schools, churches and *ultimately all households*.

    - Technology changes rapidly and we are committed to investigate using latest handheld devices to expand access to technology.

- ## Software

  - We will provide *affordable*, *appropriate* software that meets the needs of individuals, families, businesses and communities - including a common community website!

- ## Content

  - We will seek to utilize technology to improve information and communication across our communities.

SSCI Goals

- ☐ **Tech Support**
  - ■ We will find and support affordable, sustainable, locally-based technical support providers.

- ☐ **Access**
  - ■ We will create opportunities for our residents to reliably access the Internet through:
    - ☐ Community Technology Centers
    - ☐ Local businesses and Internet cafés
    - ☐ **Ultimately into their Homes**

Where we are in the Process?

Planning is Complete
- April 16th and 18th Local Community Workshops Held
  - Input into Vision and Goals, ideas for projects
- May 14th Local Community Workshop
  - Review & Input for Project List Recommendation to plan
- **July 21st Mayor Daley Press Release for SCI project**
- **August 2009 Digital Excellence Plan Submitted to City**

Preparing for Implementation
- Identified base organizations/Partners to lead projects
- Pre-planning implementation with local partners
- Building relationships with additional Smart Communities Initiative partners

SSCI Proposed Projects 1 of 2

- ☐ Develop Community web portal and publicize it by creating numerous public Internet kiosks

- ☐ Expand youth-run computer refurbishment centers

- ☐ Expand Center for Working Families' & Workforce Centers' computer labs and training programs

- ☐ Develop a Digital Teaching Youth Corps to train adults and seniors in computer use

- ☐ Support a Digital Media Arts Youth Programs

SSCI Proposed Projects 2 of 2

- ☐ Work with the City of Chicago to implement a technology
- ☐ component to Section 8 recertification—City tells tenants they have to recertify online, provides a computer and requires Section 8 landlords to provide Internet access

- ☐ Develop a technology recycling initiative

- ☐ Promote web site development for small businesses

- ☐ Develop technology training programs that meet the needs of ex-offenders re-entering mainstream society

- ☐ Train small businesses in business development, electronic bookkeeping, inventory management and other needed software applications, and continuing education for residents

Does "Home" Internet Access Improve School Performance?

☐ Teachers and parents tend to believe it makes a difference (e.g., 93% of teachers believe that home Internet access gives students an education advantage)

■ But it can be difficult to separate the effects of access itself from other factors, such as the level of technology use at school or parents comfort with the Web.

The Digital Divide:
A Southwest Community Snapshot

- ☐ In a recent study by the University of Chicago, it is estimated that households in our community have following computer access:
    - ☐ Auburn Gresham   38% (18,270 households)
    - ☐ Chicago Lawn   51% (17,077 households)
    - ☐ Englewood   56% (12,619 households)

Changing Affordable-Housing Policies To…

☐ Bring broadband Internet access to low-income families

☐ View an Internet connection as an essential utility, just like a phone jack, TV or a washer-dryer hookup

☐ To provide financial incentives to developers that include high-speed Internet access in their construction plans.

■ Make mandatory to get affordable-housing contracts

Affordable-Housing Needs Affordable Access To Technology

☐ Increasing home internet access across a neighborhood is one way to narrow the digital divide.

☐ Housing developers must be willing to build high-speed Internet connections into new and upgraded apartment complexes and include broadband as an amenity.

☐ Goal of GADC and Smart Communities Initiative's goal to enhance the relationships with builders in our community for this access .
  ■ Local landlords are offering Wi-Fi in renovated apartment buildings!

☐ Smart Communities can assist in marketing and training
  ■ People need access to job listings, health & education, community services and **housing information**

Digital Excellence Contacts

☐ Smart Community Initiative Lead Agency Contacts:

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- ■ SWOP   2609 W. 63rd Street   773.471.8208
- ■ Englewood: 815 W. 63rd Street   773.602.4507

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Thank You !

Looking forward to working with you on Smart Communities Initiatives!