



CONNECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

GENERAL	Recipient Organization:	Mercy College	Award Identification Number:	36-09-C13090
	Recipient Street Address:	555 Broadway	Report Submission Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	07/28/2023
	City, State, Zip Code:	Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522-1186	DUNS/UEI Number:	N123YUVWUJK1
	Performance Period Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	08/01/2022	Performance Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	07/31/2024
	Report Period Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	08/01/2022	Report Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	07/31/2023

1 Please describe each service provided with grant funds. (600 words or less)

Mercy College's Broadband and Digital Inclusion Project has made significant strides in improving internet access and digital literacy for students and community members in the college's anchor communities. This project has enable Mercy to obtain 800 HP laptops and Verizon mobile WiFi hotspots to distribute to students in need. This equipment has helped bridge the digital divide by providing technology resources to Mercy College students who lack home computers and reliable internet. To date, Mercy has deployed 155 laptops and Verizon mobile WiFi hotspots to high-need, low-income students to enable their continued learning, and plans are in place to deploy an additional 92 laptops in August. Mercy's partnership with Coursera allowed us to offer students and others 29 tailored learning paths covering in-demand skills in areas like IT support, project management, data analysis, engineering, and more to create a pathway to new careers and opportunities in a digital economy. To date, 96 community members have registered for participation in free certificate programs focused on building digital literacy skills. Mercy College has also developed a series of digital inclusion workshops covering foundational digital literacy, with plans for more workshops that will empower community members with critical digital skills. To support these efforts, Mercy College has hired four new staff members devoted to digital inclusion: a Project Coordinator, two Digital Coaches who work directly with students and community members, and an IT technician. These new hires have been instrumental in executing the project's goals of reaching underserved populations with technologies and training needed to fully participate in today's digital world. In addition, Mercy College has partnered with Hudson Link and STEM Alliance. Hudson Link facilitates college education and reentry support for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. STEM Alliance promotes equity and access in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. Mercy hired an instructor through Hudson Link who built an Introduction to Technology course tailored to community members needing basic tech skills. This helps break down barriers to digital fluency. By working with mission-aligned partners like Hudson Link and STEM Alliance, Mercy College can effectively scale its capacity to provide essential digital skills training and empowerment to underserved students and community members. The partnerships exemplify an innovative approach to driving digital inclusion through collaboration between higher education and nonprofits focused on education access. Overall project evaluation has been provided by Cobblestone Applied Research and Evaluation, Inc.

2 If applicable, please list subcontractors and describe how they expended funds. (600 words or less)

3 Please describe how the recipient and subrecipient (if applicable) expended the funds. (600 words or less)

In addition to paying personnel salaries and fringe benefits, funds were used to purchase laptops and hotspots for distribution. Staff members were also provided with computers. Coursework developed by Coursera was licensed, and the cost of provided evaluation services has been paid.

4 If applicable, please list each subrecipient that received a subgrant through funding. (600 words or less)

5 Using the Excel spreadsheet template titled "CMC Reports Addendum", please provide an updated count of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) within each of the eligible census block groups along with their Location ID that you connected to a network in column titled '# of Units'. The locations should match and conform to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, which is a unique identifier the geographic coordinates, and where available, the address(es) associated with each location.

CERTIFICATION	I certify to the best of knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.		
	Typed or printed name and title of Authorized Certifying Official:	Telephone (area code, number, and extension):	914-674-7138
	Eva M. Fernández, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs	Email Address:	efernandez@mercy.edu
	Signature of Certifying Official:	Date:	July 27, 2023

