Solano Connected
Connecting Communities, Empowering Lives

Dec 13, 2023 | Education & Training Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual Google Meets Meeting
Date: December 13th, 2024
Time: 9:00am - 10:00am PST
Facilitator: Linda Roman

Agenda:

Introductions (10 minutes)

Updates & Announcements (10 minutes)
- Solano Connected Overview & Tech Exchange impact (15 mins)
- Committee Key Objectives & Commitments (15 minutes)
- Announcements/General Updates (15 mins)

Discussion (25 mins)
- Solano Connected Overview (5 minutes)

Action Items (5 min)

Linda called to order the regular meeting at 9:00 am via Google Meets.

I. **Introductions**
   A. Members state their name, title and the organization.
   B. Members describe their year in three words.

II. **Updates & Announcements**
   A. This subcommittee has plans for quarterly ACP enrollments, hiring part-time digital Navigators, launching digital literacy classes and workshops, and implementing a youth technology mentorship program.
   B. *Solano Connected* is a new initiative by Tech Exchange aimed at eliminating barriers caused by the Digital Divide and providing access to technology resources for Solano County residents.
   C. Tech Exchange's mission is to ensure that all families have access to computers, internet, and technology skills necessary to improve their lives and access online education, employment, financial, and civic services. Tech Exchange has distributed over 10,000 devices, implemented programs with partner collaborations, and provided 438 digital skills to students.
   D. The Education and Training Subcommittee aims to collaborate with local school districts, community centers, and other organizations to bridge the digital skills gap and provide digital literacy training to individuals who may not have previous exposure to technology.
   E. The team discussed the possibility of partnering with local libraries, community centers, and senior centers to provide digital skills training and support for Solano County residents. They also mentioned the need for space, internet connection, and part-time staff to facilitate the classes.
   F. Ulises provided an update on the team's efforts to secure funding for sustainable digital equity programming in Solano County. They have submitted applications to the California Public Utilities Commission and are awaiting a decision. If approved, the funding would enhance digital literacy, tech

support services, and Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollments in the county.

G. Solano County is launching an RFP (Request for Proposals) to fund local nonprofit organizations for digital equity work. The RFP will have a total of $250,000 available to distribute among 4-6 organizations, with grant amounts ranging from $20,000 to $50,

H. The application deadline is **January 15th**, and an optional applicants conference will be held on January 4th.

III. **Discussion**

    A. Solano Connected Overview

        1. Solano Connected mission, vision, and new website shared amongst committee.

IV. **Action Items**

    A. This subcommittee will work to assist in establishing connections for Tech Exchange across Solano County, and invite other organizations to work toward common goals. Attendees will receive an email with a link to Solano Connected with additional relevant information.

    B. Solano Connected will assist in disseminating information about the NOFA.

    C. Prepare for the upcoming optional applicants conference **January 4th**.

    D. Provide an update on the CPUC funding decision.

    E. Connect Tech Exchange with senior centers and youth coordinators in Vallejo.

V. **Adjournment**