

NONPROFIT

Case Studies from

mobilebeacon[®]
NATION



mobilebeacon®

4G Internet Access. 4 Nonprofits. 4 Less.

Broadband can open many doors for a community. In fact, studies show a strong correlation between broadband adoption and the economic and social well-being of a neighborhood. Yet, we know that the broadband needs of many organizations and individuals remain unmet – with cost being one of the greatest barriers to adoption.

Our mission is to improve the broadband capabilities of community anchor institutions. That's why we offer unlimited data plans for only \$10/month, and a choice of fixed and mobile devices to meet nonprofits' Internet needs in and out of the office. By making next-generation 4G Internet access more affordable for nonprofits, we're helping them serve their communities, particularly underserved populations, more effectively.

Keep reading to see real-world examples of how the ever-expanding Mobile Beacon Nation is using our technology to make a powerful difference in their communities.





Anchorage School District

Background

In 2010-11, the Anchorage community had more than 3,800 homeless children and youth, with more than 2,400 enrolled in the school district. Mobile Beacon's grants provided loaner laptops and Internet access for the district's Child in Transition/Homeless (CIT/H) Project. This 1:1 initiative enabled students to catch up on work outside of school, access additional online resources and tutorials, and gain more confidence in using technology.

Solution

25 Laptops, 36 Modems with unlimited data plan

Outcome

Using our service, Anchorage School District has been able to help many youth on the road to graduation and success. Here are just a few of their stories.

- Prior to coming to the U.S., “Nelly” and her family lived in a refugee camp in Africa. After moving to Alaska, she and her family were often homeless, moving ten times in two years. With the loaner laptop and Internet connection, Nelly was able to take an online class, receive tutorial help, and graduate on time.
- A homeless unaccompanied youth, “Tristan,” couch surfed at friends' homes. He used the loaner device to complete an online course he needed to graduate. He has now begun full-time employment and plans to enroll in college.
- “Sarah” was also homeless and unaccompanied as she moved between friends' homes during her senior year. She worked full time and had difficulty completing her course work. With the help of our loaner laptop and tutorial support, she completed the online courses she needed late at night after work. Sarah successfully completed her high school studies in the summer of 2011.





Providence,
Rhode Island

Providence Community Library

Background

Providence Community Library (PCL) manages Providence's nine neighborhood libraries, making it the largest library system in the state and the city's second largest free educational institution. PCL uses our 4G hotspots for mobile access as part of their community outreach and special programs.



Solution

8 mobile hotspots with unlimited data plan

Outcome

Through Mobile Beacon, PCL has been able to reach out to underserved populations and increase access to information.

- PCL began “loaning out the Internet” by placing our mobile hotspots into circulation at a library branch that serves a neighborhood with low rates of home broadband service. The hotspots were promoted through their website, newsletter, Facebook page, and posters. The response was immediate – students logged on for homework help and families logged on for everyday access to news and information. They proved so popular, PCL is purchasing additional hotspots and plans to expand the program at additional branches.
- PCL also plans to use the hotspots to provide mobile Internet access for their Book Mobile. This will allow them to bring library resources to the handicapped, disabled, or other individuals who are not able to get to any of the library locations. With the hotspots, patrons will be able to get access wherever the Book Mobile goes.





People's Emergency Center

Background

People's Emergency Center (PEC) is a homeless services and neighborhood revitalization nonprofit that serves West Philadelphia. PEC has been using Mobile Beacon's 4G service under a government-funded project that is part of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Solution

370 mobile hotspots with unlimited data plan

Outcome

Through BTOP and Mobile Beacon, PEC has launched multiple digital inclusion programs that open new doors for homeless families and put them on the path to opportunity.

- In one program, PEC is using a number of 4G hotspots to provide broadband to families in their transitional and permanent housing programs. PEC reports that families often elect to take the computers and Mobile Beacon modems with them when they leave once they find out how useful broadband and computers are for their children.
- PEC is also running 20 computer training labs where youth can earn a free refurbished desktop. Adults also go there to get training, netbooks and the Mobile Beacon 4G hotspots, which they set up at home. Since 2010, PEC has delivered 80,000 hours of training to 50,000 people in these labs.
- PEC is also using Mobile Beacon devices to set up ad hoc training labs in as little as 30 minutes. For example, they recently set up a lab with 30 PCs in a community center to provide voting information to low income residents.



Get Started With a FREE Device

Mobile Beacon is the only mobile broadband service provider to make our devices available as a donation on TechSoup.org. It's a great way to try our service! Qualified 501(c)3 nonprofits, schools and libraries can apply for the device that best meets their needs:



A portable USB modem for connecting one computer, laptop, or tablet PC to Mobile Beacon's 4G Internet service.



A mobile hotspot for connecting up to eight WiFi-enabled devices to our 4G mobile Internet service. The hotspot supports WiFi-enabled consumer electronics like laptops, tablet PCs, digital cameras, smartphones, printers, and Apple iOS devices.



A fixed modem with an integrated Wi-Fi router that provides secure broadband connectivity and local networking. You can connect up to ten Wi-Fi enabled consumer devices simultaneously while saving money, space, and the hassle of extra cords.

If you decide you like our service, you can apply for up to 10 or 25 more donated devices in the same fiscal year. For more details, visit www.mobilebeacon.org/techsoup.



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