



the reading
success
movement

Colorado Springs Reads

Vision—Every family is connected to the Internet

Background

In today's information-based economy, being connected to the Internet is important for educational, social, and work-related functionality. Many under-resourced families in Colorado Springs cannot afford a computer at home with an Internet connection.

Proposal

- Create a community-wide collaboration in Colorado Springs to secure the resources and networking that will allow us to help most every family connect to the Internet with a computer at home students can use for research and school work. Adults can also use the computer for research, training, work functions, and seeking and applying for jobs online.
- Everyone who is not connected to the Internet for financial reasons, but would like to become connected, will be provided support to connect as community resources allow.
- Based upon need and resources, families will be provided a low-cost or free computer. Initially we will focus on working with schools to help families with students get connected.
- It is preferred that families make the commitment to obtain the Internet connection as families will have to have a contractual relationship with their Internet provider.
 - There are several options to obtain affordable Internet for approximately \$10 per month.
 - Over time, the Program will work to provide free hotspots in apartment complexes typically serving the under-resourced population.
 - In extreme cases where a family cannot afford the Internet connection, the Program will work to provide the service.

Status

- Colorado Springs Reads in partnership with the Urbanites Leading the Pikes Peak Region have begun to implement the Everyone Connected Program.
- Starting in May 2015, 100 computers were donated, refurbished, and provided to families.
- Over the summer of 2015, School District 11 donated 150 computers that were being recycled. ULPPR volunteers are in the process of adding an operating system and getting the computers ready for distribution. These particular computers are designated for Hunt and Queen Palmer Elementary students as well as FIRE 700 students.
- We need monitors to go with these computers and are in the processing of raising funds and/or seeking monitors from government surplus programs.

Next steps to expand program

- We are working to secure additional funding and donated computers.
- We are working to establish access to government surplus property programs, connecting with major organizations that recycle computers, and are seeking sponsors to fund the Program.
- In most cases, we will strive to find viable surplus or donated equipment, but will also consider purchasing affordable new computers or tablets as resources permit.
- Once a larger supply of computers has been established, we will coordinate with community programs that are already connected to families that may need the service.
- We estimate that as many as 30,000 or more under-resourced families need a computer.
- We will also link the Everyone Connected Program to our Reading Success Program to help ensure all students become proficient and avid readers and learners.