



community technology centers' network

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**Community Based Organizations Awarded \$1 Million for Youth Civic Engagement;
Addressing At-Risk Youth and Homeless Technology Skills**

WASHINGTON-- Over 50 community-based organizations from across the U.S. have received nearly \$1 million in grants through two unique capacity-building programs designed by the Community Technology Centers Network (CTCNet) (<http://www.ctcnet.org>).

CTCNet has awarded \$750,000 in competitive grants to 42 California community-based organizations meeting the needs of at-risk youth and homeless individuals, including people with disabilities, through Connections for Tomorrow (C4T) (<http://www.ctcnet.org/c4t>). C4T is a three-year collaboration with the Alliance for Technology Access (<http://www.ataccess.org>) and TechMission (<http://www.techmission.org>) funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The listing of 2003-2004 grantees is available at <http://www.ctcnet.org/c4t/grants/ca2004grantees.htm>

"C4T extends CTCNet's longstanding track record of connecting people within our field in order to expand the range of organizations- including community and faith-based groups- able to take advantage of vital information and financial resources to ensure their success and sustainability," said Kavita Singh, CTCNet's executive director. Over 40 Illinois organizations received a total of \$750,000 during 2002-2003. Grantmaking efforts will focus on Massachusetts during 2004-2005.

CTCNet also selected eight U.S. community organizations to receive over \$175,000 total through Youth Visions for Stronger Neighborhoods (<http://www.ctcnet.org/youthvisions>). The program, funded through the Corporation for National Service's Learn and Serve America program (<http://www.learnandserve.org>), is an effort to support organizations working with youth populations (ages 12-18) to implement multimedia education activities with a civic engagement focus.

"Youth Visions for Stronger Neighborhoods complements CTCNet's mission by providing an incredible opportunity to empower our nation's youth to engage community resources and address neighborhood needs in concrete ways," according to Kavita Singh, CTCNet's executive director. "Our grantees work to heighten youth awareness of their own community problem solving abilities, and to enhance the perception of youth as vital assets to their neighborhoods' long-term health and success."

Founded in 1990, CTCNet is a national nonprofit membership organization, representing over 1000 community technology centers and programs. Member organizations develop, support, and expand community technology by providing access to, training on, and support for information and communications technologies (ICT) in disadvantaged and underserved communities. CTCNet sponsors an annual conference on technology equity and digital opportunity. The 13th Annual Conference, "Building Connected Communities: The Power of People & Technology," will be held in Seattle, WA from June 11-13, 2004.

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