

Learner Web Partnership: A Multi-state Support System for Broadband Adoption for Vulnerable Adults



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Learner Web Digital Literacy Project

**Funded by U.S. Department of Commerce
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program**

Addresses primary barriers to broadband use:

- Affordability
- Lack of digital literacy skills
- Perceived lack of relevance to daily lives, needs, and aspirations

Primary target population:

- Low-income adults, often without a high school education, including immigrant communities
- 23,000 learners and tutors will work together in 90 public computer centers in 5 states



Research-based, online learning support system that customizes content in Learning Plans to help learners meet their goals. Plans are filled with free web-based resources, assessments, and portfolio space.

Content created locally but shared nationally. Each local region has it's own website built with local resources where available.



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- 5-state project bringing digital literacy training to adults in public computer centers
- Self-paced online learning opportunities with face-to-face tutor assistance
- Introduce learners to computer and internet skills, local broadband options and using the internet for career planning

Partners

- Portland State University: project lead & Learner Web host
- Minnesota Literacy Council: content developer for learners
- ProLiteracy Worldwide: content developer for tutor training
- Subrecipients with networks of community partners:
 - Richmond Public Library (Richmond CA)
 - Goodwill of Southeast Louisiana (New Orleans)
 - Minnesota Literacy Council (4 cities in MN)
 - Cayuga Community College (18 Literacy Zones across NY state)
 - Literacy Coalition of Central Texas (3 counties in Austin TX area)
 - South Texas College (2 counties in McAllen TX area)

Program Outcomes

- 23,000+ new adults will understand broadband, including ways to access it in their homes & communities.
- Many of the adults will develop the digital literacy skills needed to use computers and broadband and begin job search and career exploration.

Let's Do It in Oregon!

- Local community recruits adult learners and volunteer tutors and brings them together in public computer centers
- PSU hosts self-access training for volunteer tutors and learners: digital literacy, broadband consumer education, and introduction to career pathways
- PSU helps customize content and resources to fit local community

Contacts

Portland State's BTOP Project

<http://www.learnerweb.org/infosite/btop.html>

Learner Web – General Information

www.learnerweb.org

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