CENTRAL OHIO BROADBAND ACCESS PILOT PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL CORPORATE PARTNERS

As schools begin the 2020-2021 year with remote learning or hybrid models, the <u>Central Ohio Broadband Access Pilot</u> <u>Program</u> is providing eligible, K-12 students and their families with computers and high-speed internet access for as little as \$20.

The lack of a reliable and affordable internet connection and device to access the internet makes remote learning impossible and causes more students to fall behind. Partners throughout Central Ohio are working together to close the digital divide for up to 10,000 families, by connecting them to the technology devices and broadband access they need to be successful.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- WHO CAN PARTICIPATE? Any eligible family with a K-12 student in Central Ohio, except for Columbus City Schools students.* Click <u>here</u> for eligibility criteria.
- WHAT'S AVAILABLE? Low-cost computer packages and mobile hotspot devices with a prepaid 12-month unlimited data plan for as little as \$20 (limited financial aid is available).
- HOW DO FAMILIES REGISTER? Families can <u>register online</u> in just a few easy steps.
- HOW DO FAMILIES GET THE EQUIPMENT? There will be multiple convenient pick-up locations to choose from around Central Ohio, including local library branches and schools.

HOW YOUR BUSINESS CAN HELP

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: The program is only made possible through the generosity of funding partners. Additional funding is needed to hit the \$2.5M-\$3M target. Please consider making a financial contribution for hotspot devices with internet service plans.

DONATE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT: Donate readily available computers and equipment to PCs for People for refurbishing and reuse. Future donations will be needed as part of a broader strategy to help create a sustainable supply to meet ongoing needs.

SPREAD THE WORD: Visit <u>morpc.org/broadband</u> for program details and an outreach toolkit with flyers and social media content. Share program information with eligible families and key community partners.

For more information on partnership opportunities, please contact Aaron Schill, MORPC Director of Data & Mapping, at aschill@morpc.org or 614.233.4154.

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