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Tech Goes Home Awarded More Than \$4M to Launch Digital Literacy Programming in Massachusetts Correctional Facilities

Funding will aid TGH and technology nonprofit Ameelio in providing digital skills and devices to thousands of justice-impacted individuals, help reduce causes of recidivism

BOSTON, January 30, 2024 — Today, [Tech Goes Home](#) (TGH), a leading Massachusetts-based nonprofit committed to closing the digital divide, and [Ameelio](#), a technology nonprofit providing communication and educational tools for incarcerated communities and their loved ones, announced the receipt of a \$6 million grant from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) as part of their [Digital Equity Partnerships Program](#). Of the grant, more than \$4 million will be allocated to TGH and Ameelio to bring digital skills courses to more than 3,600 justice-impacted adults and youth housed in county jails and Department of Youth Services (DYS) facilities in Massachusetts.

“We’re incredibly proud that this new partnership, made possible through critical funding provided by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, will make it possible for us to provide incarcerated young people and adults in the Commonwealth with digital skills training and tools that will expand access to workforce, community engagement, and education opportunities,” said Dan Noyes, CEO of TGH. “This grant is a big step forward for digital equity and justice in Massachusetts, and we’re grateful for the incredible partnership of Ameelio, as well as the support of correctional facilities across the Commonwealth and juvenile centers under the Department of Youth Services to bring this critical programming to justice-involved individuals throughout the state.”

Through the grant, TGH and Ameelio will work within county-level correctional facilities and state-level juvenile detention centers to provide tablets and digital skills courses focused on workforce development, online safety, and navigating public resources. Upon reentry, program graduates who complete 15 hours of coursework will receive a Chromebook and a hotspot with one year of no-cost internet. TGH will also work with corrections facilities staff to promote TGH community partner courses already underway to support relatives of incarcerated individuals accessing reliable internet connectivity, devices, and skills to connect with loved ones.

“We thank Tech Goes Home, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and all the participating correctional agencies for their vision and support,” said April Feng, CEO of Ameelio. “This grant

will enable us to extend our reach and provide critical digital literacy resources to Massachusetts incarcerated individuals, enabling them to develop skills that will allow them to reintegrate into society as responsible and contributing members. This is a significant step towards our mission: Building a more rehabilitative and humane justice system. Ameelio is excited to join TGH to lead the charge!"

More than 8,000 individuals are currently incarcerated in county and local jails in Massachusetts. The majority of correctional facilities have limited and outdated technology, making it difficult for individuals to acclimate to the rapidly advancing digital world upon release. Programming supported by the grant is already underway in some of the facilities. The remainder of the \$6 million grant awarded to TGH will be allocated toward digital skills programming to support Massachusetts' immigrant population.

"The Digital Equity Partnerships program leverages the expertise of high-capacity organizations delivering skills training, devices, and Wi-Fi to the people who need it most," said MBI Program Executive Jody Jones. "Our targeted efforts are making a real impact with the goal of delivering 'Internet for All' in Massachusetts. With these grants, Massachusetts is creating economic opportunity and ensuring all residents can fully participate in society."

About Tech Goes Home: Tech Goes Home is a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the digital inequities that pose a significant barrier to opportunity and success for thousands of students, workers, and families across Massachusetts and the country. Working in partnership with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, Tech Goes Home provides curated support - including access to digital devices, network connectivity, and robust training in how to utilize digital resources - to help individuals and families pursue economic mobility, support academic achievement, access critical resources, and engage with their community and loved ones. You can learn more about Tech Goes Home's work, and ways to become involved, at techgoeshome.org.

About Ameelio: Founded in 2020, Ameelio is the only not-for-profit organization designated as an Incarcerated People's Communications Services provider by the Federal Communications Commission. Ameelio is committed to bringing about digital equity by ensuring all incarcerated persons have access to high-quality, affordable communications services and digital literacy tools. Ameelio's mission is to build and deploy software and hardware that enables incarcerated persons to not only reliably and affordably communicate with friends and family, but also develop the digital literacy skills necessary for them to be successful upon release. Since 2020, Ameelio has rapidly expanded, serving over 100,000 incarcerated people and their loved ones in more than 30 states and county-level correctional facilities across nine states. To learn more about Ameelio, visit our website: www.ameelio.org.

About the Massachusetts Broadband Institute

A division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is working to extend high-speed internet access and availability across the Commonwealth. To achieve this, the MBI utilizes state and federal funding to launch

infrastructure expansion programs that target areas of the state which lack high-speed internet access, as well as digital equity programs which tackle barriers to internet adoption and increase availability, addressing critical issues around affordability, enhanced public Wi-Fi, the need for internet-enabled devices, and digital literacy training. Learn more at <https://broadband.masstech.org>.

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