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Tech Goes Home Receives Historic Investment to Expand Digital Equity Work Across Massachusetts

BOSTON, April 27, 2023 – Today, Tech Goes Home (TGH), a Massachusetts nonprofit working to advance digital equity by providing devices, internet access, and digital skills training, received a historic $4.5 million dollar grant to expand its programming and help build stronger systems to equitably and sustainably close the digital divide. The grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) with American Rescue Plan (ARPA) dollars designated for digital equity, represents the largest single grant in TGH's history.

Since it was established in Boston in 2000, Tech Goes Home has helped tens of thousands of people gain access to the digital world. Today, with the support of a broad network of funders and partners, Tech Goes Home runs programming in communities throughout Greater Boston and Essex County. The new funding announced today will enable TGH to further expand its programming in 13 Gateway Cities across the Commonwealth – including new expansion in Western Massachusetts, Central Massachusetts, and the South Coast – providing thousands of additional learners with a computer or tablet, reliable internet access, and culturally-responsive digital skills training. In addition to supporting expanded programming, TGH will leverage the grant to meaningfully strengthen new and existing partnerships and provide sub-grants directly to community-based organizations to advance digital equity for the people they serve.

"Thanks to a number of forward-thinking supporters and partners, TGH has been working for more than 20 years to advance digital equity in Greater Boston and beyond, and has a proven model for how to address the challenges facing individuals and families," said Dan Noyes, CEO of Tech Goes Home. "Today's announcement represents a major step forward in expanding our work across the Commonwealth and bringing greater attention to the economic, educational, and health disparities that are connected to digital inequity. This new investment provides the opportunity to implement our model in more geographies across the Commonwealth, as well as shine a light on the power of public-private partnerships in solving entrenched societal issues. TGH will use the grant period – the next two years – to expand our programming, grow our organizational capacity, pilot a new subgrant program, and more, all with an eye toward being a part of the national solution to the challenge of digital inequity."

"Our partner organizations are leaders in the digital equity field and have cultivated an incredible network of local stakeholders who will ensure these funds have maximum benefit to the communities they are designed to serve," said Michael Baldino, MBI director. "Today's grants,

coupled with our municipal planning program and the engagement of our dedicated working group members, will ensure that the dollars invested lead to the desired impact – more residents will not only gain access to devices, digital skills, and more affordable internet, they will have access to a wider range of social, educational, and healthcare resources."

Last year, nearly 400 TGH courses were offered at over 100 partner sites, and more than 3,800 people completed the TGH program. Among those graduates, 98 percent of school-aged children said they were better able to do schoolwork online; 91 percent reported using their new digital device to communicate via email; and 74 percent of graduates used their new tools and knowledge to access telehealth. You can learn more about TGH in their 2022 Impact Report.

About Tech Goes Home (TGH)

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 in Greater Boston and beyond. 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 the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI)

A division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) is working to extend high-speed Internet access to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, medical facilities, government offices, and other public places across the Commonwealth. The MBI is working on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to launch digital equity programs that address challenges to accessing the internet, including affordability, lack of devices, and the need for digital literacy training. Learn more at https://broadband.masstech.org.

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