“I’m staying up-to-date online.”

This program gets you interested in computers because it shows you what you can and can’t do, and how you can improve. We as seniors need to know that.

Martha Lowery | Auburn Gresham

Smart Communities Chicago:
A “high-touch” approach to broadband adoption

Presentation by Dionne Baux, Program Officer, LISC Chicago

E-Chicago

April 20, 2012

Martha Lowery, Auburn Gresham resident, bus ad
How do we do it?

- Part of 10-year-old New Communities Program
- Built on existing relationships, programs
- Smart Communities resulted in $7 Million dollar award from US Department of Commerce/Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
- Demonstration in five communities (for impact)
FamilyNet Centers

• Integrated into LISC’s Center for Working Families

• Since program inception over 3,600 community residents have taken classes

• Six hours to earn a Netbook; 10 hours recommended for Digital Literacy certificates

• Most take more classes than required to earn Netbook

• Feedback extremely positive
Digital Youth Network

- Provides structured mentorship and training in new media tools
- To date over 200 middle school youth have participated in this program
- Partnership with Chicago Public Library Foundation and YOU Media Labs

Digital Youth Summer Jobs

- 20-hour-week internship for 14 to 17 year olds, includes life skills training
- Students in paid jobs with 30 employers; 117 graduates
- Work with technology, new media, lab equipment
Community Portals

- Neighborhood news
- Directories for businesses and organizations
- Anyone can contribute
- 40,000 visits in Q1 2012
- 41 contributors per site in Q1 2012 (average)
- 61 news items submitted during Q1 2012 (average)
Thank you!

- Smartcommunitieschicago.org
- Dionne Baux, dbaux@lisc.org

Digital Literacy certificate holder Jesus Saveedra: “Life is more efficient on-line.”