

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of:)	FCC 12-11
)	
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	WC Docket No. 11-42
)	
Lifeline and Link Up)	WT Docket No. 03-109
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
)	
Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training)	WC Docket No. 12-23
)	

Reply Comments by the City of Boston

Respectfully Submitted by

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/s/Donna Sorgi

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The City of Boston endorses the Initial Comments filed in this Docket by Technology Goes Home (TGH).

The City of Boston's Recommendation to the FCC:

The City of Boston respectfully requests that the FCC expressly adopt the key recommendation of TGH: that BTOP SBA grantees are deemed fully eligible and should be given preference to receive funding made available through this docket for digital literacy training programs.

Reasons for the City's Recommendation:

TGH is one of three Sustainable Broadband Adoption Programs funded by the NTIA BTOP program under a grant to the City of Boston in September, 2010. This grant funding will be fully expended by July 2013.

Halfway through the grant funding, TGH already has provided 15 hours of training to 3000 of Boston's most digitally excluded households, including 2200 parent/child teams trained after school hours in the public schools and 800 households trained in the newly equipped public computing centers funded under a separate BTOP grant. By the time BTOP funding ends in mid-2013, over 6000 households will have been trained, equipped with new net book computers for a \$50 co-pay and given access to very low-cost internet connections at home.

This is only the tip of the iceberg of digitally excluded households in Boston. Accordingly, the City has an abiding interest in finding ways to sustain and grow TGH so that we can continue to connect Boston families to the power of the internet, a critical 21st century pathway to improving their life circumstances.

The City is currently working with TGH to find ways to fund the \$1.4m/year that will be required to sustain TGH's annual costs post-grant. This is a significant challenge but the City is dedicated to success. For this reason, the City urges the FCC to adopt the specific recommendations of TGH in its final rules. In particular:

The City of Boston asks the FCC to endorse and authorize funding to BTOP SBA grantees through partnerships with funded entities. There could be no more reliable entities to benefit from this funding based on the ability of programs such as TGH to win the highly competitive BTOP grants and the two year track records of BTOP programs demonstrating stellar success in providing digital literacy training, monitored and overseen by the NTIA. This track record, coupled with the need to sustain and grow these programs, should provide the FCC with compelling evidence in support of the recommendation of TGH and The City of Boston. The City hopes the FCC will act favorably on this joint recommendation.