

L.E. Phillips Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

The mission of the L.E. Phillips Career Development Center is to be a viable business enterprise as a means to provide meaningful and appropriate vocational services and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities or disadvantages. The L.E. Phillips Career Development Center is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Statement of Need

Our Wi-Fi is limited to the classroom area, front desk and limited Wi-Fi in the cafeteria and woodshop. We would like to increase our Wi-Fi through the entire building. We received in the past from the Wispect Foundation a grant that allowed us to purchase tablets, cases and Dragon software. With these tablets we have increased clients communication needs including the use of translator apps, in addition to allowing clients the ability to get more comfortable with technology that many do not have access to in their group homes or personal residences.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

With an increase of Wi-Fi ability the tablets would be able to be utilized throughout our entire building. Our building is approximately two city blocks long. With the increase of Wi-Fi throughout the building this would allow all our Clients the ability the use the tablets services. At this time our print shop, upholstery, assembly, packaging, and brief factory are out of range for their use. Our factory and woodshop have the highest amount of Clients, by not having use of Wi-Fi limits the exposure and usage of the tablets.

Project Implementation Plan

We would look at getting a local company to install cabling and the AP's (an AP or access point is a device that creates a wireless local area network, or WLAN, usually in an office or large building. An access point connects to a wired router, switch, or hub via an Ethernet cable, and projects a Wi-Fi signal to a designated area) and our IT department would be in charge of making sure this was installed correctly and then working with the case managers to be sure that the WIFI updates would work with the current equipment that we currently have.

Evaluation Plan

Our case managers would work with the supervisors of the various departments and assist in finding programs that best support and may be utilized by our Clients. Please note that the Wi-Fi would be for the usage of the tablets as well as case managers/supervisors. Cell phone usage for employees/clients is limited to cafeteria and back patio during break and lunchtime only. Cell phones may not be used in hallways, bathrooms, warehouse and work areas; this includes calls, texting and other applications (Facebook, Twitter, music, photos ect). With the tablets we have been able to work with our clients to communicate better and relieve anxiety when they are communicating with others. We have a Client who is a deaf mute and works in the factory. Currently she relies on others around her who speak in sign language to interpret for her, when she has the tablet she can communicate with others around her. By having the WiFi available in her department would open up daily communication for her (she is in our brief dept). We have been using an app that allows you to sign to her also. With some other software we have the privilege of having a blind receptionist. In the woodshop we have a young man who loves to be part of the "guy world" there but has a severe speech difficulty. With the use of the tablets he can speak to his coworker through apps and is no longer someone with a disability, he now is just one of the guys who just happens to need something to assist him with his speech. I can't explain

how full your heart gets when you know you are a part of something that we take for granted and have the ability to help someone else with something like talking to someone else. It gives our deaf mute client her dignity as she can use the tablet to say she needs to use the rest room compared to everyone asking where she is off to or why she left the area. Simple dignity. Providing a young man ways to communicate with older guys, a young man who desperately needs positive male role models, removing a barrier for him.

Budget

At this time we are using an old estimate (from 2018 as we were not able to get a current estimate in a timely manner to comply with the grant deadline) for getting WiFi and that was approximately \$6000.00 for the cabling as well as 9 AP's would be \$2061.00 (Ubiquiti UniFi AP AC PRO 802.11ac Scalable Enterprise Wi-Fi Access Point (UAP-AC-PRO-E-US), the AP price is current. . This would be at a total of \$8061.00. We are requesting a total of \$9000. (in order to be prepared for any unexpected). Wispact Foundation would be the only one what we would have for funding of this endeavor.

Staff Recommendation

The grant can be recommended for approval. While seemingly the installation of the WiFi would be categorized as an operational expense this is actually a vital component to engage the use of the tablets that essentially for the disabled staff that work at L.E. Phillips. The facility provides a unique opportunity and is one of the largest employers of disabled individuals in the area. A site visit to L.E. Phillips was helpful in assessing how these tools are used by the workers both for organization of their day and as a tool to aide in communication. The grant will provide a direct benefit to the disabled workers on the warehouse and manufacturing floor.