



Creating Impact with Technology

Public Value Statement: 4-H teen leaders (Tech Changemaker) teach digital skills to New American and underprivileged youth across Cass County

The Situation

More than 24 million people living in the U.S., including 19 million living in rural communities, do not have access to broadband internet, an essential service in today's economy (FCC 2018 report). Limited access to broadband internet combined with the growing need for digital skills is impacting access to economic opportunities for youth across the nation.

Extension Response

National 4-H Council and Microsoft are working together through the 4-H Tech Changemakers program to empower 4-H teens to lead digital skills trainings, teach the value of digital tools and find technological solutions to real world problems. These teens are called tech changemakers.

In North Dakota, tech changemakers have been making an impact on New Americans and underprivileged youth in Cass County.

Impacts

Over 200 youth in Cass County, ages 10-16 were reached through afterschool programs, classroom sessions, and day camps. In addition, six youth leaders helped facilitate educational programming across the state.

64% of surveyed youth participants reported that the STEM day camps made them want to learn more about technology. 70% of surveyed youth reported that they can see how technology can help change my community for the better.

100% of tech changemakers reported that they felt they were helping their community through grant activities.

Youth Comments

"It was fun to learn about robotics from the tech changemakers."

"I got to learn how to code drones, not just fly them!"

"I made my own video game in STEM club and won an award for my game. I didn't think I could code."



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*Federal Communications Commission (2018). *2018 Broadband Deployment Report*. Washington D.C. Retrieved from: <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/broadband-progress-reports/2018-broadband-deployment-report>