

Grant helps Mutual Housing close digital divide in Spring Lake

Thanks to a \$305,632 grant from the California Public Utilities Commission, Mutual Housing California will be providing refurbished laptop computers and one year of computer training to residents at Mutual Housing at Spring Lake and five of their Davis and Sacramento communities.

The California Advanced Services Fund grants are awarded to nonprofits such as Mutual Housing as part of the \$20 million access and \$5 million adoption program to increase use of broadband services at publicly supported communities.

“Being computer literate is necessary in this digital age,” said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing California chief executive officer. “School children, people looking for work, people with health issues, everyone needs access to internet resources.”

Of people with little education and income, 37 percent still are not connected to the internet in California. And nearly half of those who are only have smartphones, which makes it difficult to do research, homework or fill out job applications.

These statistics also hold true for Spanish-speaking agricultural workers such as those living in the Mutual Housing at Spring Lake communities.

Mutual Housing has been closing the digital gap since the 1990’s when the Sacramento-based nonprofit began providing a computer to each of its racially and ethnically diverse communities.

In 2000, Mutual Housing opened its first computer lab.

Since then, the nonprofit has added labs to most of its 19 multifamily communities and free wifi to many of them.

Mutual Housing also has applied for additional funding to expand the program to more communities in the region.

Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable rental housing for the diversity of the region’s households.

A member of NeighborWorks America – a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization that supports community development nationwide – Mutual Housing has 3,200 residents, nearly half of whom are children.

Through its focus on community, the nonprofit also provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, leadership-building activities and services for residents and neighbors.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops sustainable housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at mutualhousing.com.

