



Smart Technology Mentors Project

Overview for School Administrators

The Smart Technology Mentors Project matches seniors and people with disabilities with local students ready to assist them in installing, operating, and troubleshooting smart home devices, and enrolling in cost-saving utility smart pricing programs.

During the fall of 2021, the project will test this new model for direct service delivery in 3 diverse Illinois communities through local Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and area high schools. Students with and without disabilities that participate in the project will receive training to serve as Smart Technology Mentors and a \$15 stipend for every in-home installation visit they conduct. The home visits are free of charge to recipients.

Participants & Funders

The pilot project is being conducted by the Seniors Independent Living Collaborative (SILC) in consort with the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL), and the Progress Center for Independent Living (PCIL). Technical support is also provided by the Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP). Funding for the pilot program is provided by the Illinois Science & Energy Innovation Foundation, Google, and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Upon completion, the project will be scaled-up for operation as an ongoing program and expanded to communities across Illinois.

Role of Participating Schools & Students

During 2021, six Illinois high schools in three geographic regions, and up to 30 high school seniors will be provided an opportunity to participate in the project. Interested school administrators will be asked to allow the project coordinator from the local Center for Independent Living to post fliers on school billboards and otherwise share notice of a 45-minute information seminar on the Zoom platform that will describe the opportunity and solicit student interest to participate. The seminar will take place during the first or second week of September. Interested students will then complete and return an application and a parent/guardian consent form and participate in a 3-hour Zoom training session on September 15th. At the conclusion of the training, an online exam will be administered and passing students will then be certified as Smart Technology Mentors and approved to conduct in-home installation visits supervised by their CIL Coordinator. In-home installation visits will be scheduled around the student's availability between the weekday hours of 3:00 and 6:00pm from September to December 2021.

STMP grant funds are sufficient to support up to 30 installation visits this coming fall.

For More Information, please contact: Doug Newman, Pilot Program Director at: 773-899-0801