



BACKGROUND:

The Arizona Community Foundation and the Phoenix IDA have provided start-up funding of \$500,000 for the codePHX initiative aimed at establishing a coding program for youth ages 4-17 throughout the city of Phoenix. Coding is the writing and or development of software commands and languages to achieve the outcome for a computer task, program or game.

- The codePHX curriculum was developed as a pilot over the last year and includes coding, robotics and 3D modeling programs.
- Due to its success, the program is expanding across the city of Phoenix over the next three years, and will have an impact on more than 500 youth in the first year, and over 1,500 by year three.

MISSION and GOAL:

The mission and goals of codePHX is to provide our youth with the opportunity to gain knowledge and hands-on experience with computer coding and STEM skills outside of their school environment. Studies show that an emphasis on computer coding and STEM will ultimately help our youth to achieve success in school, life, and career by preparing our youth with relevant and applicable skills that provide them with regular access to computer science and coding experiences. We know that early exposure to computer coding helps to develop computational understanding, as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills.



WHO WILL BENEFIT:

codePHX will be offered at no cost to youth within the city of Phoenix at 29 citywide locations. The curriculum is seeking to engage students and children who are traditionally under-represented in technology fields, including girls, and economically disadvantaged families.

THE NEED:

- Only 25% of elementary schools in Arizona teach computer science.
- Only 16 of 325 schools in the Phoenix area support a STEM curriculum.
- Currently, there are nearly 10,000 computing jobs vacant in Arizona, and hundreds of companies looking for qualified talent. This is 2.8 times the average demand rate.
- STEM jobs in Arizona are estimated to grow by 24% by 2024. This is a growing and target-rich industry for our state's economic developers.
- In 2014, only 17% of women earned bachelor's degrees in computer information, but women make up nearly 50% of the overall workforce. We can do better in preparing our youth for the realities and workforce demands of the future.



FOUNDING PARTNERS

