



# PowerOn Mobile Mini Grant Impact

## SEPTEMBER 2022 IMPACT REPORT

PowerOn Mini Grant was made possible by support from T-Mobile

### KEY METRICS WE ARE TRACKING:

Total grantee centers: **32**

Data collected from **30** centers

Total number of center clients who benefitted from the granted technology in September: **6170**

Centers serving rural clients: **23**

On average, **32.5%** of clients reside in rural areas

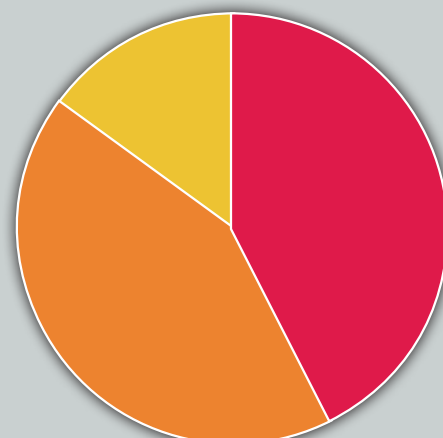
**306** social events or support groups were held using the granted technology

**38** clients access food bank resources using the granted technology.

The granted technology enabled **1530** people to access mental health service

Approximately **67%** of partner center case loads were managed using the granted technology

### Age groups served by centers:



- youth (under 25)
- general population (26-64)
- elders (65+)

### SERVICE HIGHLIGHT

#### LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS

PowerOn partners with several organizations that do the crucial work of supporting the LGBTQ+ older adult community. Unfortunately, we live in a society that often does not prioritize creating infrastructure to support the general older adult population, let alone address the specific needs of the LGBTQ+ older adult community. LGBTQ+ older people are twice as likely to be single and live alone, and four times less likely to have children. While many of us in the LGBTQ+ community have built chosen families and support systems, older LGBTQ+ adults may face the gradual loss of their partners and support systems. Many LGBTQ+ older adults also lived through the HIV/AIDS crisis meaning they may have lost many members of their family to the epidemic. For those who do not have familial support from younger generations, often nursing and retirement homes are the only options available to receive needed housing and care. However, these homes are very costly and government funded options often have lengthy waitlists to even apply. According to a study by SAGE, "One-third of 'LGBTQ+ 50+ live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, compared to a quarter of non-LGBTQ+ people," making housing and care even harder to obtain for this population. For those who do access housing and care, they may be vulnerable to discrimination, homophobia, and transphobia in these spaces, forcing many back into the closet. Organizations dedicated to providing housing and services to the LGBTQ+ older adult population are not only building safe spaces and providing resources, but are saving lives every day.

"Using the technology, Mary's House for Older Adults was able to participate in the AARP's national Livable Communities Conference."  
—*Mary's House for Older Adults*

"Our volunteers have been working with clients to help our older clients understand the technology and it's so wonderful to see!"  
—*Health Equity Alliance*

"We use this technology for check-in assessments before each counseling session. As we have analyzed the data, we have seen a significant decrease in suicide/self-harm, and an increase in quality of life. This technology makes the whole process seamless."  
—*Pride Center West Texas*

"We have just started a partnership with Better Help and are now able to offer clients 6 months of free therapy that they can access using the granted technology."  
—*Our Spot KC*



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## CENTER HIGHLIGHT



### ST. LOUIS QUEER+ SUPPORT HELPLINE ST. LOUIS, MO

At SQSH, the St. Louis Queer+ Support Helpline, one PowerOn laptop significantly increased access, empowerment, and engagement for our Social Media & Newsletter Volunteer, Kelsey (they/she). "This laptop has made my SQSH work way more accessible to me. Because I work long hours and have to drive home from work, it's faster to use my PowerOn laptop to join Zoom meetings. It's also helped me to stay more on top of my SQSH work, because I have a dedicated device to do so, separate from my personal/ social life and schoolwork. Compartmentalizing has allowed me to dedicate a space in my life to volunteering with SQSH."

For queer folks with chronic pain, having a laptop instead of a desktop can improve physical access to digital devices. "Before receiving this laptop, my previous laptop was pretty broken and worked only 20% of the time. My partner and I have not had the resources to replace it. Due to my struggles with chronic pain, sitting at a computer desk is nearly impossible. This laptop allows me to sit on the bed or on a couch, making digital work way easier for me to physically access," says Kelsey.

Like SQSH, Kelsey believes strongly in the importance of queer and trans people's access to technology. "If queer & trans people are not online, then other people never see our community represented, especially in a highly digitalized world amidst COVID, technological growth, and globalization. Given the prevalence of online communities, not being online can feel invisible. By increasing access to queer & trans stories and experiences, technology allows our community – and myself – to connect with others with similarly marginalized gender & sexuality experiences, while support and learning from each other." Using their PowerOn laptop, Kelsey has contributed immensely to SQSH's Social Media, Newsletter, and other forms of digital outreach that amplify the St. Louis LGBTQIA+ community's voice, power, and humanity.



Kelsey with their PowerOn laptop



One of our clients, Jerry, recently obtained employment after regularly coming in and using the technology to apply for employment opportunities. We have begun to see an increase in clients coming in to use the technology. —Pomona Pride Center



"Cam (they/them), our Peer Support Specialist, using one of the granted devices to help an individual in crisis. This particular person had received Cam's number from another client and called asking for help getting treatment and assistance with recovery. Shortly after joining our team, Cam suffered a climbing injury and was unable to be as mobile as they had previously been. This technology allowed them to stay in contact with their clients and support them through their needs." —Out Boulder County

"These tablets allowed YS Staff to sign-in LGBTQIA+ BIPOC youth and young adults participating in HIV/STI testing offered by the organization through a partnership with local providers/hospitals. This will allow YS staff to reconnect with results and offer other services such as their Mental Health counseling to these individuals."

—Youth Seen

"With this technology I was able to teach a homeless parent about renting, financial literacy, and housing preparedness. Together we discussed her needs and wants, created goals, and achieved the task of getting her stably housed with her one year old son"

—Sacramento LGBT Community Center

"Student leaders are using the devices to conduct leadership training and to record and edit educational videos to share on social media. This is helping them build necessary skills around technology use and education to further the social justice mission of our office."

—Pride Center FIU