

The Centri Tech Foundation launches digital tools for low-income job seekers

- Community Skills Connect connects underserved residents to innovative digital workforce development solutions, made possible through Verizon's Community Enhancement Award.
- A digital services platform features local and custom workforce development content for job seekers in Baltimore, Maryland, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC.
- Community partnerships include the Technology Learning Collaborative (TLC) of Philadelphia, the Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition (BDEC), Martha's Table of Washington, DC and others.

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(Washington, DC) – Today, the [Centri Tech Foundation](#) launched new digital tools for job seekers in Baltimore and Philadelphia as part of [Community Skills Connect](#), an initiative to help low-income residents navigate local workforce development resources and access digital skills training.

With support provided by [Verizon's Community Enhancement Award](#), the Centri Tech Foundation is collaborating with community partners, including the Technology Learning Collaborative of Philadelphia, the Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition, and Martha's Table of Washington, DC. The initiative seeks to reach approximately 8,200 low-income residents across the Mid-Atlantic cities of Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. The partners' shared goal is to help streamline residents' journeys toward economic opportunity, from gaining digital literacy to adopting emerging tech for the workplace and wealth building, to earning credentials for jobs and careers.

The Community Skills Connect platform features local and custom content for job seekers in [Philadelphia](#) and [Baltimore](#) to access employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, both in person and online. (A third site for Washington, DC, is forthcoming.) Hosted on Centri Life, a residential services website, the Community Skills Connect platform provides a local directory and map of local training programs and tech career pathways, upskilling/reskilling courses, and other connections for employment and entrepreneurship.

"We are thrilled to join forces with Verizon through the Community Enhancement Award to launch the Community Skills Connect initiative," said Marta Urquilla, president of the Centri Tech



Foundation. "Together with our community partners, we are making it easier for low-income job seekers to gain valuable digital skills for employment and access workforce development opportunities so that they can fulfill their aspirations and thrive."

"The digital skills gap and its contribution to un- and under-employment in Philadelphia is significant," said Kate Rivera, executive director of the Technology Learning Collaborative. "TLC is thrilled to partner with the Centri Tech Foundation to connect the local workforce and digital equity ecosystems to ensure greater opportunities for Philadelphia residents."

"The Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition is excited to serve as a community partner to the Centri Tech Foundation on its 2024 Community Skills Connect Initiative," stated Samantha Musgrave, interim executive director at the Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition. "At a time when 92% of jobs will require some level of digital skills, we know that we must have a digitally skilled workforce."

Community Skills Connect meets people where they are, both virtually and in the community. In partnership with service provider Martha's Table and [The Black Upstart](#), a nonprofit dedicated to promoting Black entrepreneurship, the Centri Tech Foundation hosted an [AI for Entrepreneurs bootcamp](#) in Washington, DC. With Verizon's support, scholarships and laptops were awarded to 33 aspiring business owners, ages 17 to 70+.

"Together, we did more than host a tech workshop; we created a powerful space for shared learning among a community of aspiring entrepreneurs and gave them the tools to turn their ideas into tangible opportunities for income generation," said Tiffany Williams, CEO of Martha's Table.

In today's increasingly digital economy, Community Skills Connect is addressing a critical need. As technology continues to redefine work as we know it, equipping low-income job seekers with essential digital skills is vital for promoting economic mobility and addressing widening social and economic gaps.

To learn more about the Community Skills Connect initiative and access local resources in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, visit: <https://www.communityskillsconnect.org/>.