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City of Miami Receives Grant From The Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition To Aid Seniors

Miami, FL (June 24, 2010) —At today's Commission Meeting the City of Miami accepted a \$132,950 grant from the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition to provide educational opportunities for working-age and elder adults in a jointly sponsored pilot for what will become a comprehensive countywide digital inclusion initiative. The initial pilot will target 120 residents from selected locations in the most economically challenged neighborhoods of Miami (current grant funding will allow a maximum of three neighborhoods to be addressed in this pilot). The pilot is designed to create awareness and provide Internet access, training and equipment to residents, so as to prepare Miamians to participate effectively in the global digital economy.

"I am pleased that this pilot program expands upon the City's very successful Elevate Miami: Rites of Passage concept by creating a program to address working-age and elder adults" - Mayor Tomas Regalado.

The pilot will provide participants with 50 hours of free formal digital skills training (computer training) at neighborhood Elevate Miami eLearning centers. Participants completing the training will earn a free refurbished desktop computer and free Internet access from the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition for one year.

Highlights of the pilot include:

- Provide digital literacy training to 120 working-aged and elder adults in parks, senior centers and public housing facilities.
- Refurbish and provide computers to working-age and elder adults who successfully complete the digital literacy training and qualify.
- Coordinate the establishment of service and installation of free Internet access to recipients of the refurbished computers. Actual Internet installation and service will be provided at no charge to participants by the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition.
- Expand the Elevate Miami: Rites of Passage program to adults and seniors, allowing participants to earn free access and equipment to qualifying homes.
- Program and schedule management of the instructors/coaches and digital literacy training classes conducted under this grant.

About Elevate Miami:

Elevate Miami prepares all residents and businesses of Miami for a leadership position in the global economy, establishing public and private partnerships that facilitate affordable technology, including mobile and low-cost internet access, employable skills sets and economic opportunities for all Miamians. The program is a comprehensive, life-long approach focused on the accessibility and affordability of technology and free training for youth, adults, senior citizens and small businesses. For more information please visit www.elevatemiami.com or contact 305-416-1538.

About the Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition:

The Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition (MDBC) is an unprecedented collaboration among diverse South Florida leaders dedicated to deploying next generation broadband technology and closing the digital divide. The Coalition's purpose is to create a connected community in Miami-Dade that advances education, economic development, individual empowerment and quality of life for all residents. MDBC's goal is to construct a robust broadband network that will connect community anchor institutions throughout Miami-Dade County and extend broadband services to our underserved communities. This initiative will create efficiencies in the delivery of healthcare, education and government, impact our economy, improve public

safety, and create jobs. For more information please visit www.miamibroadband.org or contact 305-371-0340.

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