SMARTECH NEXUS

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[Empowering Communities *to* Empower Themselves]

SMARTECH NEXUS (STN) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Baltimore, Maryland, founded to disrupt the traditional means of community engagement in cities and counties across the United States. We rethink service delivery for at-risk and underserved populations using "SmarTech," and provide Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) the capacity to deliver equitable and holistic care to people of all cultures, languages, races, ethnic backgrounds, religious and spiritual traditions, immigration status in a manner that values the worth of individuals, families, and communities and protects and preserves the dignity of each. The STN role is to:

1. **Lead** sustained community engagement efforts to provide the talent and critical infrastructure (e.g., transportation, housing, public safety, energy, communications, banking, etc.) necessary to support citizens, families, and communities in their efforts to become environmentally sustainable and resilient to social, economic, and natural disasters;
2. **Empower** communities to provide coordinated service delivery to individuals (to include returning citizens, first responders, and veterans) and their families through the Community1st Program;
3. **Apply** location-based intelligence to the logistics of social and coordinated service delivery for individuals, families, and ultimately communities;
4. **Deliver** standard, secure, and scalable Community1st Data Platform that (1) complies with the information and reporting requirements of all federal and state social service programs, (2) improves decision-making and service quality and fulfillment, and (3) automates the services of our community partners as we work together to improve the social determinants of health and wellbeing of some of our most vulnerable communities;
5. **Organize** faith-based organizations and nonprofits within communities to identify and address strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to community resilience and sustainability; and
6. **Provide** access to immersed training and skills required to empower the next generation to thrive and survive in the Skill-based Economy.

VALUE OF PARTNERING WITH US: Our services are focused on identifying the strengths and talents that already exist within neighborhoods. Our goal is to reduce the number of disconnected young people in underserved communities by 500,000 over five years. Central to our work is listening to families and individuals as they tell us what's needed to maximize success in their communities. In addition, we facilitate the community capacity to provide the necessary data, technology, and infrastructure to support communities as they become environmentally sustainable and resilient to social, economic, and natural disasters.

MISSION: We bring a "community-first" network of people, families, institutions, and public-private partnerships to identify and build new community partnerships and enhance existing ones. We use data and technology to reduce duplicative efforts and maximize client access to community resources.

VISION: "Empowering communities to empower themselves" to be inclusive, safe, healthy, resilient, and sustainable.

OUR COMMITMENT:

Stronger communities benefit us all. The combination of increased demand for services and benefits, expectations for better service outcomes, fiscal constraints, and accountability demands are challenging health and human services organizations. Also, program administrators are attempting to balance resources between doing more with less and demonstrating positive outcomes. They need to improve operational efficiency while expanding the impact of results. We believe that untapped potential exists in our communities. Individuals are not maximizing their abilities, businesses are not leveraging their full capacity, institutions are not coordinating service delivery, and communities are not thriving. Through innovation (IPs), STN is committed to empowering communities to drive improvements in critical infrastructure, logistics, and human services for the people living and working in them. Ultimately, STN will strengthen communities by tapping into two of its most underutilized resources: (1) people with great potential but little knowledge about how to reach it and (2) enhancing collaboration between faith and community-based organizations using IT-based tools to improve access to information and decision-making.

1. **Community-Driven Asset Mapping**
STN works alongside communities to assess their preparedness as it relates to resilience, and sustainability. Community assets and resources are identified, inventoried, and depicted on a geo-enabled platform with turn-by-turn directions. Finally, the community, supported by STN, develops a community action plan for setting priorities and creating the talent and solutions required to address its most pressing needs.

2. **Technology Strategies and Training**
STN provides the necessary technology to address community-wide priorities and solutions. We tailor the technology data analytics and connectivity solutions to improve the community's capacity to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what catastrophic event they experience.

OUR SERVICES

3. **Continuous Improvement Planning**
STN will share and assist communities with applying best practices and innovative techniques for promoting resilience and sustainability. We provide data-driven decision support to communities as they implement their strategies for becoming more resilient to the physical, social, and economic impact of new technology and the demand for skills.

4. **Coordinated Service Delivery and Knowledge Sharing**
STN works across communities and their leaders to discuss viable solutions that address a common need of a region or group of communities. STN will inventory and map shared resources and deficiencies and find ways to coordinate capacity building across a region or group of communities. This approach includes bringing leaders together across communities for networking, planning, and collective learning.

STN Outcomes	Indicators Per Community
Advance Community Capacity and Resilience	% availability of resources and leadership to strengthen (pre-event) or repair (post-event) social structures within a community
Promote Community Sustainability	% of the community advocating for and practicing minimal resource use and maximizing reuse instead of passing it on to the waste stream.
Use technology and data science to optimize community results	# of participants using technology and data analytics to advance community planning and engagement practices
Build, adopt and certify the talent pipeline for a Skills-based economy	% of participants who report feeling better prepared to lift themselves and economy their communities out of poverty after participating in skill-based training.
Improve community services and amenities	% increase in quality of community services (e.g., transportation, health, water quality, food security, etc. and amenities (e.g., parks, recreation, etc.) within a target community
Producing a vibrant and thriving Community-centric Microeconomy (a.k.a., Produce, Supply, and Buy Locally)	# of products created locally; %community tax revenue improved by increasing property values and employment rate
Deploy Broadband and Sustainable Clean Energy	% of community square miles with the fiber infrastructure in place to support a zero-carbon footprint strategy

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Self-Regulation

- We believe most individuals have the inherent capacity to effect positive change in their lives, in the lives of their family members, in their communities and in their places of employment. We respect the unique power, strength, interests, talents, and abilities of all individuals.

Diversity and Inclusion

- Organizational success is realized when people with diverse ideas, strengths, interests, and cultural and spiritual backgrounds come together with the singular purpose of doing the work of the organization. We believe that diversity and inclusion are essential to implementing STN's "community-first" approach.

Community Engagement

- We value the mechanisms required for building and sustaining relationships between STN, program participants, and community groups. We will help the community and its stakeholders understand and use community data, remove or reduce barriers that impede participation in engagement activities and proactive action on the needs or issues that limit community capacity.

Service Equity

- We promote health, safety, and independence for communities and its members by adopting practices and methods to eliminate disparities in the delivery of community services.

Economic Independence

- We believe in local ownership of resources and empowering participants and community stakeholders to act collectively to become more resilient to physical, social, and economic disruption.
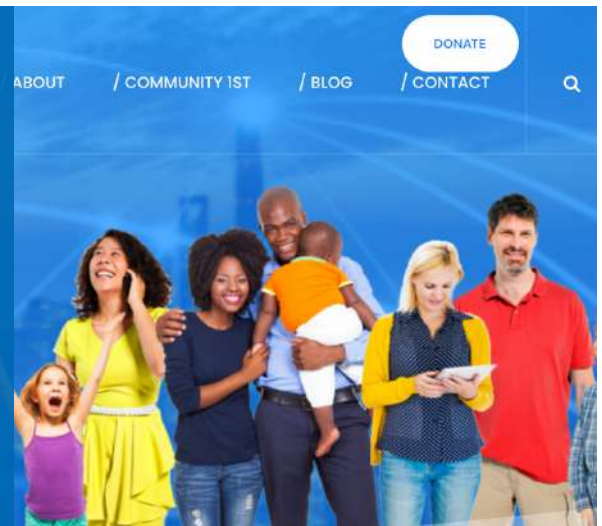
Organizational Integrity

- Stewardship and fidelity are essential to ensuring the responsible use of human, financial, and physical resources. STN is committed to being a trustworthy steward of its resources and pledges to deliver our services in an equitable manner.

JOIN OUR CAUSE TODAY!

Just hit the white donate button on our website at **smartechnexus.org**.

Thank you for your generosity! Any amount will make a huge difference as we empower at-risk and underserved communities across the country to be inclusive, healthy, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

For additional information, please visit our website **www.smartechnexus.org** or email us directly at **info@smartechnexus.org**