

A Community Action Agency

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PRESS RELEASE

GCCSA Distributes Chromebooks to COVID-19 Impacted Families

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Families with grade school-aged children receive needed technology when all the world went virtual

HOUSTON, Texas (September 21, 2020) – Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA) equipped Houston-area families with brand new Chromebooks in time for the start of a new school year that went virtual almost overnight.

"We have taken a long, hard look at the depth to which this health crisis interrupts and possibly deters the educational goals that lead to families' economic stability," said Dr. Jonita W. Reynolds, chief executive officer of GCCSA. "Therefore, equipping children with reliable access points for their education and aiding their parents with technology that allows them to search for work, is key to decreasing the stress of this pandemic."

One hundred Chromebooks were awarded to families who live in Harris County, have at least one K – 12th grade child in the home, have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, and have median household incomes within <u>200% of the federal poverty</u> <u>income guidelines.</u> These families have demonstrated remarkable need for technology in this virtual age of distance and learning.

"We find ourselves in the most uncertain of times. Our health, livelihoods and overall quality of life are being challenged by a novel virus that, fortunately, we are on our way to defeating", said Dr. Reynolds. "Families who were previously experiencing income inequality find their vulnerability even more pronounced."

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. has amplified its promise to assist our vulnerable neighbors and will continue to source innovative methods that will close gaps and make every day living less stressful. Now, more than ever, is the time for all of us to band together.

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About Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc: As Harris County's Community Action Agency, the purpose of Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. (GCCSA) is to strengthen the educational, social and economic well-being of individuals and families as they move toward economic independence and self-sufficiency. Founded in 1965, GCCSA provides diverse programs designed to eliminate the inhibitive conditions of the under-served and un-served populations of Harris County. Through programs such as Head Start/ Early Head Start, Rent and Electricity Assistance, Food Pantry, Adult

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Literacy and Education, and Vocational Training and Education Scholarships, GCCSA is able to assist families in earning a living wage, individuals in the advancement of their education, and communities in gaining economic security. To learn more about GCCSA's programs and services, visit: <u>www.gccsa.org</u>.

The Corporate office and all Head Start/Early Head Start Centers are closed to the public at this time.

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