



T-Mobile Hometown Grant Recipients Quote Sheet

Childersburg, Ala.

"We are thrilled that T-Mobile has selected ALICE as a 2025 recipient of a Hometown Grant. This funding will allow us to build a Tech Center in rural Childersburg, Alabama to provide the community with a gathering space that houses educational programming, workforce development training, and provides broadband internet access. We are so grateful to collaborate with T-Mobile to bring the ALICE Community Center vision to life!"

- **Gerald Wallace, Founder & President, ALICE Community Center**

Sheridan, Ark.

"This grant is essential in completion of the renovation of the children's space within the new Grant County Library, which will expand the capacity for children's programs, materials, and technology. Families will have access to a vibrant space to engage in both educational and social activities."

- **Jessica Reeves, Director, Grant County Library**

"I am excited to serve as a member of the Grant County Library board during this time of growth and progress. We are confident this project will have a lasting impact on our community by improving literacy and supporting a vision of lifelong learning."

- **Carolyn Ashcraft, Board Chairperson, Grant County Library**

Evergreen, Colo.

"The Evergreen Legacy Fund is all about making improvements to our mountain community whether they be beautifying or functional. This project appealed to us because it is evidence of residents coming together, stimulating pride and working hard to make a big project come to fruition. We are pleased to have played a part at the front end to inspire others to get on board."

- **Linda Kirkpatrick, Executive Director, Evergreen Legacy Fund**

"My husband, Tom, aspired to have new bleachers so the community would have a place to come together to support our youth. He passed away in Oct 2021 before it was achieved, an unstoppable group of people only known as the Bleacher Team stepped in and helped make Tom's vision become a reality. Because of the generosity of countless patrons, we have this amazing place to gather. These bleachers are more than seats – they reflect Tom's love for this community and his belief in bringing people together."

- **The Poholsky Family**

"This project is more than a facility upgrade – it is an investment in our local economy and community spirit."

- **Megan Mitchell, President, Evergreen Downtown Business Association**

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“As a coach, having new bleachers means we can finally welcome our community in a way that matches the pride we feel in our program. It creates an environment where parents, alumni, and fans can come together and share in the Cougar spirit.”

- **Matt Van Praag, Varsity Football Coach, Evergreen High School**

“Playing true home games in front of friends and family makes every game more meaningful. The new bleachers give us the chance to build hometown pride, celebrate with our community, and create memories that will last a lifetime.”

- **Evergreen High School Student Athletes**

I can finally watch games and hang out with my grandkids in a safe space during home games. Before the new bleachers I'd have to carry my own chair down to the field taking 45 stairs to get there. It always felt dangerous carrying a chair downstairs to a field. Now I can access the bleachers much easier and sit with the crowd of cheering spectators!

- **Grandma Pat, Evergreen High School Super Fan and Grandparent**

“I couldn't be prouder to see our new bleachers finally completed! This has been a dream in the works for years, and thanks to T-Mobile, our amazing community and project team, our students and families now have a safe and comfortable place to cheer on the Cougars! It's proof of what we can accomplish together!”

- **Cindy Mazieka, PTSA President**

“Thank you, T-Mobile! You pushed this project across the finish line! The Hometown Grant helped our community finalize new bleachers to make our school a safer and more inclusive space. We couldn't have done it without you!”

- **Shellene Ellington, Volunteer Project Manager**

Fernandina Beach, Fla.

"The City of Fernandina Beach is so excited to be recognized with this grant. We share T-Mobile's value of fostering local connections. Our new waterfront park is a place for our community to gather and connect. It will be enhanced for years to come by this new play equipment."

- **Sarah Campbell, City Manager, City of Fernandina Beach**

"This children's play feature will be a delightful addition to the City of Fernandina Beach's new Riverfront improvements. The Climb Fernandina play structure will let children know that Historic Downtown Fernandina Beach is not just for dining and shopping with their parents, it's for children getting to play and exercise with other children too! With this structure in place, designed to bring to mind Fernandina Beach's history as Florida's first railroad site and also being the birthplace of modern shrimping, families will linger longer, creating a sense of family, community and place."

- **Robert Martyn, General Manager, Hampton Inn and Suites Amelia Island Historic District**



"This imaginative climbing structure promises not only to enrich the lives of local children and their families but also to position downtown Fernandina Beach as a family-friendly destination where children are welcomed and celebrated. The presence of such a feature will naturally draw more families to the area, stimulate pedestrian activity, and support local businesses."

- **Maurie Dugger, Director, Community Engagement, Amelia Island Convention and Visitors Bureau**

"The Climb Fernandina: Rail to River Junction Monkey Bars project proposed by the City of Fernandina Beach will be an important addition to Fernandina Beach's Historic Downtown, which does not have a children's play feature. The City's intention to customize the play feature in a manner that references Fernandina Beach's historic aspects of being the original site of Florida's first railroad (which ran from Fernandina Beach to Cedar Key, FL) and of being the birthplace of the modern shipping industry along the Amelia River are a significant additions that will promote knowledge of this history with local children."

- **Arthur "Buddy" Jacobs, Chair, the Amelia Island Fernandina Restoration Foundation**

"Thank you, T-Mobile for the generosity and love of community T-Mobile provides through your Hometown Grants program. Fernandina Beach's "Climb Fernandina: Rail and River Junction Monkey Bars" project is a creatively themed play structure that draws on Fernandina Beach's shrimping and rail history. By integrating physical activity and local culture, the project will support healthy habits and attract families and enrich our community."

- **Al Waldis, Owner, The Salty Pelican Bar & Grill**

"The Amelia Island Pétanque Club (AIPC) is located in Fernandina Beach on beautiful Amelia Island, Florida. The AIPC wholeheartedly thanks T-Mobile for their grant award for the "Climb Fernandina: Fernandina Rail and River Junction Monkey Bars" children's play feature. While the AIPC will continue to play our sport at the renovated riverfront park, our downtown district lacks a dedicated play space for children. The "Climb Fernandina" monkey bars will directly address this issue by offering an engaging recreational play space in the heart of the historic downtown. This enhancement will strengthen our downtown's appeal to families looking to live, work and play here -fostering community pride and community vitality."

- **John Abbott, President, Amelia Island Pétanque Club**

"The proposed play feature is a much-needed addition that will enrich the future riverfront space for residents, families, and visitors alike. Downtown parks are more than green spaces, they are hubs for connection, community engagement, and lifelong memories. "Climb Fernandina" will help transform the riverfront into a dynamic, multigenerational destination that supports health, play, and community in a unique Fernandina Beach way. The "Climb Fernandina: Fernandina Rail and River Junction Monkey Bars" children's play feature aligns strongly with the goals of the T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program and represents a smart, joyful investment in the heart of our community. Thank you, T-Mobile!"

- **Lori Huppmann, Executive Director, Fernandina Beach Main Street**

Mount Airy, Ga.

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“We are extremely grateful that this grant will help fund the creation of our technology lab, expanding digital access and skill building opportunities for our Club kids. This grant will change the trajectory by transforming our outdated tech room into a dynamic innovation hub, defining their futures in a beautiful, safe and inspiring community space.”

- **Steve Mickens, Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier**

Mt. Vernon, Ill.

“This grant jump-starts a Teacher Library that will put more books directly into local classrooms and homes. When educators have what they need, kids read more—and that changes everything. We’re grateful for T-Mobile’s investment and proud to build a space that strengthens literacy across South Central Illinois.”

- **Nat Shook, Executive Director, United Way of South-Central Illinois**

Richmond, Ky.

“This investment by T-Mobile into the heart of our community is evidence that now, more than ever, we need to come together to build a future where opportunity, dignity, and support are accessible to every person. We are honored to partner with T-Mobile as a catalyst sponsor towards furthering this project. The positive impacts on our community from this project will ripple across generations to come.”

- **Daniel Kirstein, Cofounder, Enrich Corp.**

Natchitoches, La.

“We are thrilled to have been selected as a recipient of the T-Mobile Hometown Grant for the installation of accessible improvements at Ben Johnson Park & Basketball Courts. Accessibility in public parks is essential for creating inclusive spaces that everyone can enjoy, regardless of their physical abilities.”

- **Nicole Gray, Community Outreach & Grants Manager, City of Natchitoches**

“Congratulations to the City of Natchitoches and our dedicated Community Outreach & Grants Manager for their hard work and vision in securing the T-Mobile Hometown Grant. This achievement will help transform Ben Johnson Park with the addition of a new parking lot and sidewalks, making it more accessible and welcoming for all in our community.”

- **Shanna D. LeBrum, MBA, Community and Economic Development Director, City of Natchitoches**

Searsmont, Maine

“The addition of accessible doors will allow our aging population to continue to enjoy and participate in the many community events offered by our wonderful Searsmont Library.”

- **Sandra Weagle, President, Friends of the Searsmont Library**

“Library patrons and event participants in the Community Building are really going to benefit from the ADA door upgrades made possible by this grant. A really big deal for folks.”



- **Steven Brown, Director, Searsmont Town Library**

“Our Town is not just a town; it’s more like a small family. To be able to make our Community Center a safer more functional facility for our residents, by way of offering a soundproof booth for privacy for classes or appointments, and seating for working, lounging, or just gathering, and most importantly having ADA compliant doors to enter the building and facilities in an easier and safer way warms my heart. Our town is here to help each other in every way that we can, and this is one way that we felt we could help so many.”

- **Gail Gary-Cox, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer, Town of Searsmont**

Detroit Lakes, Minn.

"This grant allows the DAC to provide ADA-accessible, inclusive swing sets that give the people we serve the simple joy of play, the freedom to connect with others, and the chance to feel fully part of our community."

- **Sarah Hill, Executive Director, Becker County DAC**

Cape Girardeau, Mo.

“Old Town Cape is thrilled to be a recipient of the T-Mobile Hometown Grant. This investment allows us to honor the history of our Cape Riverfront Market while elevating it for the future-with technology enhancements, beautification, and placemaking elements that will make the space more vibrant and welcoming for everyone. We are grateful for T-Mobile’s commitment to communities like ours and excited to see how this project will strengthen both our downtown and the connections within our community.”

- **Liz Haynes, Executive Director, Old Cape Town**

Rolla, Mo.

"The City of Rolla in conjunction with Ozark Actors Theater is honored to receive this prestigious and competitive grant from T-Mobile. Continued investment in the Rolla Downtown Area, especially in dealing with the arts, helps solidify community gathering space."

- **John Butz, Administrator, City of Rolla**

Edenton, N.C.

"This investment will significantly enhance the scope, impact, and sustainability of Edenton’s growing portfolio of live music and community events in the heart of our historic downtown.

Main Street Edenton has been a driving force in revitalizing our town center, turning it into a vibrant gathering place through strategic programming like the Sounds of Summer concert series, Second Friday Downtown After Hours, and monthly block parties. These events not only bring neighbors together but also support our small businesses, attract regional visitors, and contribute meaningfully to the local economy.



In fact, this programming has helped spur more than \$3.4 million in private downtown investment and boosted sales tax revenue by 13.2%, far outpacing the state average. The purchase of a professional-grade SL75 stage will allow Main Street Edenton to expand these live performances with greater efficiency, safety, and quality. It will also reduce long-term rental costs, enabling the organization to redirect funds into other community-building efforts. Furthermore, a permanent, mobile stage provides an exciting opportunity for regional and touring acts to perform in our small town, opening doors for greater cultural exchange and visibility."

- **Hack High, Mayor, Town of Edenton**

"For our school, the SL75 will serve as a platform, literally and figuratively, for collaboration, creativity, and career development. It will foster partnerships between our school and local music programs while giving our student performers a professional stage to showcase their talents. Exposure to a variety of musical groups and live performances will help broaden the experiences of our rural students, offering them cultural enrichment opportunities that are currently limited by geography and infrastructure.

Additionally, this stage will bring our community partnerships even closer to our high school. By demonstrating a shared investment in the future of our students and public spaces, we can attract key businesses and professionals who want to live and work in communities with strong, engaged, and well-supported schools. Schools that demonstrate alignment with their local communities are proven anchors of economic development and long-term vitality.

The Stageline SL75 will serve as a powerful community asset enhancing student opportunity, strengthening local partnerships, and building the kind of dynamic, invested community where families thrive and businesses choose to grow."

- **Sonya Rinehart, Principal, John A. Holmes High School**

Norfolk, Neb.

"Norfolk Fire and Rescue is very excited about this grant and what it can do for us and the community we serve. We take pride in being able to provide the best service possible and at times to do that we have a need for translation services. This technology will be of great assistance to us, and we are grateful we are one of the communities that T-Mobile selected."

- **Tim Wragge, Fire Chief, Norfolk Fire Division**

"We're grateful for the funding secured through this grant, and excited for tools that make communication more seamless. The clearer we connect with residents, the better service we can provide our community."

- **Brian Tighe, Chief of Police, Norfolk Police Division**

"We are so thankful for this grant, which will strengthen our ability to serve community members regardless of the language they speak. This support will help us better connect people with the information and resources that they need at the library."

- **Jessica Chamberlain, Library Director, Norfolk Public Library**



"T-Mobile's generous grant will be instrumental in expanding our language access resources across various city divisions. This support directly enhances our ability to serve the community, ensuring we're more inclusive and effective from a safety and services perspective. I am incredibly appreciative of the hard work and dedication shown by Gustavo Magana, our Language Access Navigator and HR Specialist, whose efforts were crucial in achieving this goal. We are grateful to T-Mobile for selecting our wonderful community to be a recipient of this important grant."

- **Jessica Dvorak, HR Director and Title VI Compliance Officer, City of Norfolk**

Monmouth, Ore.

"PCL's Prisms Art & Community Center is a tremendous asset to Downtown Monmouth and the surrounding area. Their commitment to providing an accessible space where all community members feel welcome and included is a perfect extension of the work they do. They draw in people throughout the region, including the family of a mayor in a neighboring county who shares that it is a favorite destination for three generations of their family.

Through partnerships with local organizations like PCL, the City of Monmouth seeks to create a vibrant and active downtown, 'Where Great Things Grow.' We congratulate them and thank T-Mobile for recognizing Prisms with this grant."

This award supports the City of Monmouth's ongoing efforts to invest in a connected, creative, and inclusive downtown. With the support of T-Mobile, PCL is excited to continue building a space where everyone belongs—and where great things grow."

- **Cecelia Koontz, Mayor, City of Monmouth**

Mooresburg, Tenn.

"The Mooresburg Community Association (MCA) is an invaluable resource to Hawkins County, TN, in feeding folks in their area that otherwise would have insufficient means to obtain those meals any other way. All of us in the county thank T-Mobile for awarding MCA the Hometown Grant! I know MCA will be good stewards of the funding and hope T-Mobile can continue a relationship with them and others in our county in the future."

- **Mark DeWitte, Mayor, Hawkins County**

"The Mooresburg Community Association is extremely proud of being chosen to receive a 2nd Hometown grant. Without T-Mobile's support a few years ago, we would not have been able to renovate our facility and never miss a beat on serving meals to older and disabled residents in our rural area. With this grant, we can make the parking lot more accessible and safer as well as provide a walking path that Mooresburg residents can use. T-Mobile's support is invaluable and especially in a rural community where funds are hard to raise."

- **Pris Rogers, Executive Director, MCA**

"I am very pleased to see that the Mooresburg Community Association (MCA) has been awarded their second T-Mobile Hometown grant. This grant will allow MCA to continue to provide much-needed services



to an unincorporated community in a safe and accessible environment. I am thankful for T-Mobile and their willingness to be a part of all the good things that MCA is doing right here in Hawkins County."

- **Gary Hicks, Jr., State Representative**

"The Rogersville Hawkins County Chamber of Commerce extends its sincere congratulations to the Mooresburg Community Center on being selected as a recipient of the T-Mobile grant. This recognition underscores the Center's unwavering commitment to enhancing community engagement and advancing opportunities for rural development throughout Hawkins County."

- **Nancy Barker, Executive Director, Rogersville/Hawkins County Chamber**

Mineral Wells, Texas

"We're absolutely thrilled and grateful to receive this grant, which will help us transform the unused tennis courts at the City Gym into a welcoming backyard space for the whole family! We can't wait to see the community come together and enjoy it! Thank you, T-Mobile!"

- **Carrie Stevenson, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation, City of Mineral Wells**

Waynesboro, Va.

"The T-Mobile Hometown Grant will help Destination Downtown Waynesboro expand the Virginia Street Arts Festival and bring even more creativity into our downtown. We're grateful for T-Mobile's investment in small communities like ours—it truly makes a big difference."

- **Meghan Swanson, Acting President, Destination Downtown Waynesboro**

"The Hometown Grant is a game changer for our Virginia Street Arts Festival. This support will allow us to elevate an already successful event into an exceptional weekend celebration of the arts and everything downtown Waynesboro has to offer."

- **Greg Hitchin, Director, Economic Development and Tourism, City of Waynesboro**

Burlington, Vt.

"Our library is a space where everyone can gather together and freely exchange ideas. We're grateful for T-Mobile's investment in our community, as this grant helps ensure that we can continue to fulfill our mission to inform, enrich and nurture a community of lifelong learners here in Burlington and across the state."

- **Mary Danko, Director, Fletcher Free Library**

Ferndale, Wash

"Ferndale School District has a long-standing relationship with WCEL and has seen firsthand the positive and profound impact their work has on our community and across Whatcom County. WCEL has a long

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record of success in supporting the youngest children with disabilities and developmental delays, and their families and caretakers, and we are looking forward to our partnership with the agency as they continue to improve their Early Learning Program."

- **Dr. Kristi Dominguez, Superintendent, Ferndale School District**

Shelton, Wash.

"When we create accessible spaces in nature, the community shows up, feels less stressed, and experiences awe and wonder—and I know this because they tell me so, all of them."

- **Claudia Suastegui, Senior Director, Shelton Family YMCA**

"This project is about stewardship and collaboration - stewardship of our land, by promoting native plants, and helping our friends learn to grow food, and giving them their own garden spaces; and collaboration, by joining with so many other local people and organizations to help each other help our community. It is also about providing the therapy that nature gives, in a calming, positive place that can improve mental, emotional and physical health for everyone. It is near the middle school, junior high and high schools, and will be an ideal gathering place for youth as well as their families. We are all excited about working together, and what this will become. Oh boy!"

- **Rob Wilson-Hoss, Volunteer, Shelton Family YMCA**

Amery, Wis.

"The School District of Amery is, quite literally, building brighter futures for our students and community. This grant will help us provide our students with a unique experience they can't get anywhere else, and we can't wait to see what they do."

- **Dr. Shawn Doerfler, Administrator, Amery School District**