

TRAINING RESOURCES: What Types of Training Exist

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Training Classes range from a two-hour session to a regular college course. Many organizations offering technology assistance to nonprofits or grassroots groups sponsor classes as a part of their services. Some nationwide corporate training centers also offer substantial discounts to nonprofits. Local colleges and universities may have extension classes that teach core technology skills. Community Technology Centers often offer introductory classes to the general public that nonprofit staff can take advantage of. Distance learning is becoming a more popular way for people in remote areas to take classes via satellite or the Internet. For independent learners, more and more websites offer a full listing of online courses.

The Community Technology Centers' Network **www.ctcnet.org**

CTCNet is a network of more than 400 community technology centers where people get access to computers, computer-related technology -- such as the Internet and training.

CompUSA **www.compusa.com**

CompUSA provides computer trainings on a variety of topics -- from desktop applications to networking and hardware issues. Gifts-In-Kind offers discounts to member nonprofits.

Network for Good **www.networkforgood.org**

Offers a wide range of nonprofit resources, including technology resources for fundraising, discounted software, training, etc.

Customized Training for your entire staff may be the best option for you. A consultant can adapt a session to fit your organization's needs and teach the specific technology tasks you need to learn.

Npower **www.npower.org**

Npower offers a range of computer application courses appropriate to nonprofits. Most courses are offered in a classroom setting at numerous cities.

LINC Project **www.lincproject.org**

The Welfare Law Center's Low-Income Networking and Communications (LINC) Project is a nationally recognized initiative to enable low-income grassroots groups to use technology strategically to advance campaigns on economic security issues and to build their members' leadership and computer technology skills.

Do-It-Yourself Training can be a good choice if you are an independent learner, you may want to take advantage of the wealth of books, CDs and videos you can buy to teach you different technology skills.

Listservs and Message Boards can be great sites for informal information gathering, and where you can post and answer questions in a variety of different subject areas.

Individual Tutoring can be the most effective way to learn technology skills that are directly relevant to your everyday work. With a tutor, you can sit at your regular workstation and practice the exact tasks you are learning for work. The tutor will be able to observe you as you work day-to-day and give you feedback and shortcuts to increase your efficiency.