

Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Public Hearing, Appropriations and Education Committees
Understanding EITC/OSTC Programs

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**Written Testimony submitted by: Lekeisha Eubanks-Evans, Vice President of Education, Employment
and Neighborhood Services**

Good Afternoon Honorable members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives,

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to share more about what we do at Project HOME, specifically the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs and the impact Earn Income Tax Business Credits have on our program services!

My name is Lekeisha Eubanks-Evans and I have the pleasure of serving as VP of EENS programs at Project HOME.

Project HOME is working to end chronic street homelessness and the cycle of poverty by providing access to housing, offering opportunities for gainful employment, access to high-quality affordable healthcare and high-quality educational opportunities.

At the Honickman Learning Center Comcast Technology Labs, we serve K-12 grade students enrolled in schools located in 19121 and 19132 residential zip codes. We are working to bridge the gap for students and families, we offer students a safe space to learn and thrive. We nurture their interests, skills, and talents by offering them access to the latest and greatest technology that would otherwise only be found in high-end music production studios and STEAM Labs across the state. Our students are learning life and professional skills, they are honing critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they work to edit their own bodies of work, producing their own music and code robots during after school. We remain committed to supporting every student enrolled in our program from Kindergarten through 12th grade to achieve their long-term goals of enrolling in colleges, universities, or trade school and have dedicated staff that see them through every step of the process.

Since I joined the team in 2017, we have served 615 students in our after-school programs, had 50 students graduate HS, 100% of which enrolled in college/university with 33 graduating college/university during this period.

Earn Income Tax Credits are the lifeblood of our work! 42% \$840K of our department's \$2M annual operating costs are offset by business tax credit contributions. These contributions enable us to be innovative, provide unique educational opportunities to students, hire for talent offering instructors market industry salaries, and to expand program offerings and services to reach more youth that might otherwise be limited by our other grant limits, like our Out of School Time grant for instance, which only reimburses us for servicing 40 students, when we currently have 90 High Schoolers enrolled this school year. Without contributions from Comcast, Vanguard, Cencors, Osage Industries, various law firms and banks across the city and state, who are just a few of our contributors the work that we do would not be sustainable.

Thank you again for this opportunity, we are grateful for your commitment to students across the state.