



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE BUD L. WILLIAMS

11TH HAMPDEN DISTRICT

HOUSE CHAIR, JOINT COMMITTEE on RACIAL EQUITY, CIVIL RIGHTS, and INCLUSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2026

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Closing the Digital Gap **Springfield's Youth Receive Critical Technology Support**

Please join Representative Bud L. Williams along with Erica Rachel Andrews, President of Springfield.community, and Teka Jones, Director of Strong Young Minds, on Monday, January 12th, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Strong Young Minds Youth Development Inc.'s Dream Center, 980 Bay Street in Springfield MA, as the two Springfield based organizations announce their partnership to close the digital divide.

Springfield.community is donating 13 refurbished laptops to Strong Young Minds Youth Development Inc.'s Dream Center. "The laptops are aimed at empowering Springfield's youth. Too much perfectly good technology ends up in landfills. Springfield.community is changing that." noted Andrews. "By refurbishing donated computers and giving them to organizations like Strong Young Minds, we're turning e-waste into vital opportunity."

Delivering a vital technology boost in support of programming offered at the Dream Center during 2026, programs and other initiatives such as S.C.R.I.B.E.S and Creative Writing & Expression After-School Teen Program tackles the problem of digital equity head-on. "We're not about to stand by and watch our kids get left behind," emphasized Teka Jones of Strong Young Minds. "These laptops will help bridge the digital divide and ensure that every young person in Springfield has the opportunity to thrive."

Ensuring that all young people have access to the tools they need to succeed, this initiative/partnership offers Springfield's Youth critical technology support. "It's simple. Kids need computers. The world in which we live in today demands it. Springfield.community and Strong Young Minds are stepping up." declares Williams. "Thirteen refurbished laptops are heading to the Dream Center. Not handouts. Tools. Tools to build futures. Digital redlining stops *here*. Strong Young Minds is building leaders. Springfield.community is making sure they have the tech to *lead*. This isn't charity. It's *investment*. Investment in our kids, investment in our city, and investment in our future."

To learn more about Springfield.community visit <https://springfield.community> and to learn more about Strong Young Minds visit <https://strongyoungmind.com>.

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