



Powering Strong Communities

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EPB of Chattanooga receives national award for community service

Orlando, Florida, June 22, 2021 — EPB of Chattanooga, Tennessee, received an American Public Power Association Sue Kelly Community Service Award during APPA's National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The award recognizes "good neighbor" activities that demonstrate the commitment of the utility and its employees to the community.

Not long after the COVID-19 pandemic began, EPB of Chattanooga joined with Hamilton County Schools, the city of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, and other private and public community partners to address a rising crisis – the need for at-home learners to have access to high-speed internet regardless of their financial position. The result was the formation of HCS EdConnect, powered by EPB, a program that provided high-speed fiber optic internet services to every economically disadvantaged K-12 student in the Hamilton County School system at no charge.

The program officially launched in July 2020 and was made available to more than 28,000 students. Qualifying families received internet with fast speeds and no data caps provided through EPB's 100 percent fiber-optic network. In the program, EPB professionally installs a Wi-Fi router at no charge and helps set up each student's learning devices. This program not only helps the next generation of Chattanooga residents but provides an important utility for families throughout its community.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.