

# TELECOMMUTING

## Description

Telecommuting offers flexibility to employees who can perform work tasks remotely. Advancement in technology has allowed most office functions to occur remotely, eliminating the requirement to be physically present in an office. Telework programs allow employees to work from home or a satellite office either all or part of the day, changing the time of their travel or eliminating their commute entirely.

Telework programs offer enticingly low costs to create and maintain, while simultaneously improving productivity and saving money and resources by reducing wasted time, parking and office space needs, employee turnover rates, and recruiting or training costs. These programs are ideal for public-private partnership relationships.

## Target Market

- Professional and managerial staff
- Business service, wholesale, and banking/finance industries

Businesses and organizations that primarily perform office-related work are best suited to telework programs, as opposed to manufacturing and some service industries.

## How Will This Help?

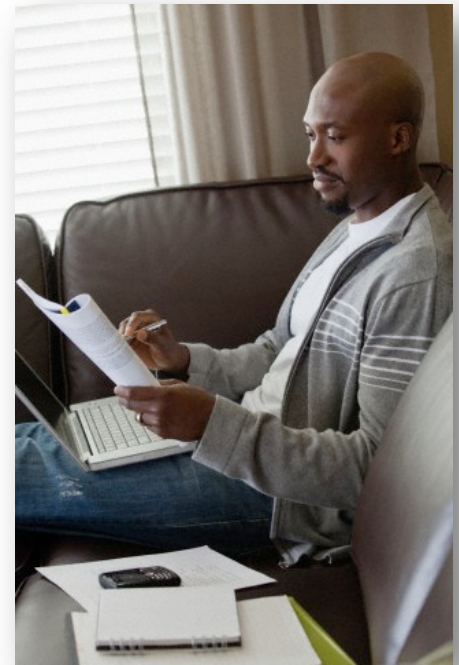
- Reduce traffic volume and congestion during peak times by removing commuters from the road.
- Increase productivity and reduce costs for businesses that participate.
- Improve environmental factors by reducing cold starts, emissions, and miles traveled.

## Success Stories

- In 2007, Houston based CompuCom started a telework program with 20 percent of its 600 employees working at alternative locations.
- In Minneapolis, 75 percent of Best Buy's 4,500 corporate employees participate in a Results-Only Work Environment (ROWE) program. The program allows employees to work at alternative locations and times, while agreeing to have their employer evaluate their work.

## Implementation Issues

Telework programs are easily created, but may be less appropriate for some. Private and public sectors must partner to educate and encourage organizations to take advantage of this strategy. Businesses should identify what portion of their operation might be best suited for telework programs, while public agencies should provide incentives, marketing, and organizational assistance for starting these programs.



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<b>Cost:</b>	●○○○○○
<b>Time:</b>	<b>Short</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Region</b>
<b>Who:</b>	<b>City/Private</b>
<b>Hurdles:</b>	<b>None</b>