

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Town of Manchester

Project Title: Connecticut Municipal Net

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

The CT-Muni-Net is a state-wide effort to create clusters of 18 Inter-connected Municipalities which will be inter-connected with high speed broadband connections. Currently there is very limited or no connectivity between the CT-Muni-Net Towns which prevents the sharing and delivery of critical regional/state-wide educational, public safety, computer center and library services to underserved populations throughout Connecticut.

While there are many innovative CT-Muni-Net applications detailed in the last mile section, leveraging public computer centers, below are the summaries for our centers:

1. Regional Adult Education Center – This regional education center currently supports 13 towns, but does not have broadband connectivity to underserved populations such as Hartford. The Puerto Rican Forum of Hartford has partnered with the Regional Adult Education Center to educate a large underserved Spanish Speaking population. To facilitate distance learning to this underserved group, a private grant for \$630,000 has been obtained to support the educational component of distance learning, but will require the complimentary broadband element and public computer centers to promote and sustain these educational services.

A second important partner of the Regional Adult Education Center is Eastern Connecticut State University which provides college credit courses at the Adult Education's Computer Center. With broadband connectivity, college credit courses will also be available to the underserved populations throughout Connecticut via the CT-Muni-Net.

2. Regional Emergency Management Center – This regional emergency management center, while funded both locally and on a state basis, it is not currently connected to the regional towns that it is supporting. The Municipal broadband inter-connectivity provided by this project will promote safety awareness, sharing of regional emergency services and the coordination of first responder services as demanded by major emergency/catastrophic events.

3. Business Resource Center - Will connect the local business community with tools, research sources, services and software applications that as individual companies they can not afford to invest in. We see they applications, resources and services as greatly enticing business growth and opportunities with our communities served from this center.

4. Senior & Low Income Housing Community Centers - Here will be providing computers, software applications and broadband connections to reduce the digital divide from the served to the un-served within our communities. Today there is a vast discrepancy between our citizens depending their income levels and social status. There are going to be a total two senior housing centers and two low income centers in our service areas.

5. Youth Service Center - This center will focus on providing computers, software applications, distance learning resources and broadband speeds to youths in grades six thru twelve.

6. Nathan Hall/Washington Wireless Cloud - For grades one thru five, this wireless cloud will provide students the ability to access broadband technology to complete their school work. Currently these students do not have computers or access to broadband to advance like others with the more affluent neighborhoods.

With the preceding and many other critical services made available by the CT-Muni-Net on a regional/state-wide basis, future growth and sustainable adoption of public computer centers and broadband services throughout Connecticut are inevitable.

Manchester, the applicant / lead municipality has successfully deployed and maintained 44 miles of high-speed broadband fiber connecting 37 buildings and 17 schools for 7+ years. A state-wide precedent was established by Manchester when the DPUC ruled that under the municipal gain statute, all Connecticut Towns have the right to put up dark fiber on utility poles in the space referred to as "municipal gain". Manchester's model will be emulated by the other 17 members of the CT-Muni-Net.

The population of the target areas is 370,102.

The overall cost for the CT-Muni-Net Public Computer Centers are \$0.00