

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Douglas County Public Library

**Project Title:** Fiber for Douglas County Public Library and East Fork Fire & Paramedic District Headquarters

**Project Type:** Sustainable Adoption

---

### **Executive Summary**

---

The proposed project will bring fiber to the campus of the Library and the Fire and Paramedics District Headquarters/Emergency Operations Center from the County Administrative Building, add a mobile computing lab and a videoconferencing suite to the network, offer the computing lab and the videoconferencing capability to Douglas County residents, businesses, and government agencies and provide training in the use of the computing lab and the videoconferencing suite to Douglas County residents, businesses, and government agencies.

We believe that the project will improve broadband service adoption rates by (1) modeling a fiber optic network that could be expanded to include other government agencies, (2) introducing local businesses to the opportunities for utilizing new technologies over robust broadband to establish, maintain, and operate their businesses, and (3) introducing additional community members including vulnerable populations to the services provided upon a broadband backbone.

Overall strategy to address the need for a broadband backbone and the introduction and provision of new technologies is to:

- Build a fiber optic network to connect the campus that houses the Douglas County Public Library and the East Fork Fire & Paramedic District Headquarters/Emergency Operations Center to the Douglas County Administration building/IT site.
- Install a videoconferencing suite and a mobile computing lab in the meeting room of the Douglas County Public Library
- Promote the availability of the equipment
- Train local government employees, businesses and the general public in use of the videoconferencing equipment and mobile computing lab to support training, distance learning, economic development, emergency communications

We believe the project is innovative in leveraging the budgets of multiple county departments to build a infrastructure with permanent and scalable bandwidth with no appreciable ongoing costs. The project then takes the opportunities offered by this backbone to introduce videoconferencing and mobile computing lab access and training to an entire rural county.

The area to be served includes the entire Carson Valley area of Douglas County and covers 413,269 acres (88% of the county's land area) in 18 distinct communities.

- 41% of the county population of 45,406 is over the age of 62\*
- 30% of the county population 65 years and over has a disability\*
- 6% of the county population is of a race other than white\*
- The current county unemployment rate is 12%\*\*

\*US Census Bureau 2005-2007

\*\*Nevada State Demographer

We estimate that 4,500 persons will be reached by the marketing campaign and that 1,000 persons will be trained in the use of the new technology over a 2-year period.

The applicant has been operating for 47 years with a history of successful technology and training projects, including those funded by:

- Private grantors
- Gates Foundation
- Library Services and Technology Act
- Nevada State Library and Archives
- Douglas County Public Library Foundation
- Verizon
- Target
- Wal-mart

While we believe jobs will be created by the implementation of this project, any such jobs would be the result of development of new businesses, the enhancement of current businesses, and the support of Economic Development efforts. No direct impact is measurable by the applicant.

The overall cost of the proposed project is \$87,381.00 with the Library providing \$17,302.00 in cash and \$3,220.00 in kind as a match.