

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Town of Clarkdale

**Project Title:** Clark Memorial Library Innovation/Cultivation Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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Clarkdale and the Verde Valley are located in north central Arizona, 90 miles north of Phoenix, 55 miles south of Flagstaff and over the mountain, 50 miles from Prescott. The valley contains the communities of Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Jerome, Camp Verde and Sedona, as well as smaller unincorporated areas. In the 2000 census, just over 60,000 people called this area home. This area has experienced a 5 to 10 percent a year growth rate basically centered around roof top development. People are attracted to this rich spiritual area. Retired CEO's come together with immigrants as everyone looks towards the library to provide entertainment, education and opportunities.

Our vision for the Clark Memorial Library Regional Innovation Cultivation Center is to have a world class facility that provides educational opportunities, research abilities, video conferencing facilities, creation stations, entertainment, children's learning and growth areas, interactive capabilities and programming. It will be a place for those who have a need or wish to explore it, and a place for people who fear or lack technology skills and lack the understanding to overcome that fear. Our vision is to have this facility be the creative center of the valley and the place where everyone wants to gather. Where people expect to have their needs met. A center providing a comfortable environment which invites visitors to explore the benefits of technology.

To do this we intend on remodeling the historic Clark Memorial Library and transforming it into a technical nucleus of opportunities. We will add 14 feet to the rear of the building to house the large video conferencing classroom. This large classroom can then be divided into smaller areas for workforce training areas, long distance learning areas or business conferencing areas. The building design also allows for a second floor elevator that will take you to the second floor Music/Video Zone. Here individuals or groups can compose and edit music, they can compile, create and edit videos, create short films, record group sessions and then share them with schools or groups around the world. Here individuals or groups can create and collaborate across the table or around the world. There will be gathering places which include outdoor decks with wireless internet access that will insure that learning groups or individuals have laptop use both indoors and out. Creative ventures will find a home in the center.

We propose to hire a person whose job is to expand our strong volunteer program to accommodate a 24/7 approach to the use of the library. Someone who works with our partners at the school and college to provide programming that meets all levels of needs. A person who develops our mentoring program to bring computer and internet skills to every target group or needy person. Our outreach program will be the focus of our Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator. That program is envisioned to be fluid enough to meet the various needs of the different target audiences and creative enough to be an individualized approach.

From the children's Small World area, where they can learn to interact with children from other countries through study groups or virtual language groups, to interactive game play, to adult virtual travel or language or collaborative job share, the center is seen as meeting the need as it is expressed. The possibilities for creative expression, for editing and sharing and marketing that expression, for collaborative efforts around the world for learning and researching and exploring will all be found here, in one location.

This will be the community success story that other towns and cities can examine. Our existing volunteer program will expand to meet the center's needs and we will pull from the public to meet our technical and instructional needs. We will target populations that are not large users of computers and the internet and work with them to discover how they can benefit from what others know. Watching and interacting with a grandchild on the internet can be as rewarding for some of our patrons as creating a solution to a work problem with partners from around the world is to others. Researching and learning from a medical center can be as empowering as doing well on a virtual interview.

We see our project as being so much more, as truly living up to its name...it is the Innovation Cultivation Center of the valley.