

C. Executive Summary

7. Executive Summary of Overall Proposal:

In the current era of technology innovation, broadband is the highway of the new economy and a vital connection linking the entire nation and the global economy. The case for investing in broadband as an economic development strategy to encourage commerce and revitalize areas across the country is compelling.

A digital divide exists in the United States and statistics show that while approximately 50% of Americans have high speed internet access, 25% of the poor and disadvantaged have access to computer facilities and their access to training in the use, installation and deployment of the technology is limited.

Twenty five percent of states are ranked higher than New York State (NYS) for digital economic competitiveness. Although broadband infrastructure has been deployed throughout NYS, there are still communities where access to broadband is neither affordable nor available.

The New York State Universal Broadband Strategic Roadmap states that two-thirds of the residents of New York City (NYC) do not have affordable high-speed Internet access and acknowledges that if broadband is available, but not affordable, its full value to New Yorkers cannot be achieved. Similarly, if citizens have not been exposed or educated to its capabilities and benefits, the state's vision cannot be realized. Governor Paterson made universal broadband a top priority to ensure NYS is at the forefront of technological transformation. The NYS broadband strategy anticipates creating more "e-citizens" who are digitally literate and connected to affordable Internet access.

This project intends to bridge the digital divide and increase broadband access and digital literacy of disadvantaged communities in NYC.

The effective use of broadband technology by low income, disadvantaged persons in economic empowerment zones depends significantly on digital literacy. While access and service may be available, use is restricted often due to the lack of knowledge of the technology and its capabilities. By providing a Public Computer and Technology Center in NYC, the knowledge needed to promote increased use will be transferred to these vulnerable population groups.

When they acquire knowledge and skills including how to install, deploy and troubleshoot broadband technology systems which are increasingly becoming part of their daily lives, these persons will enjoy a confidence and familiarity which become pervasive and lead to higher levels of demand, adoption and technology use. This will also result in the creation of skills for employment in better paying jobs, access to the range of state services available online, explode their options for sourcing educational, health and other information to help them achieve their full potential and contribute more significantly to the economic empowerment of the community.

The vision for the proposed NYC Public Computer and Technology Center is that it will become an anchor institution in the community.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At present, no institutions in the community offer this range of pertinent skills which support the development of the whole person in a single location.

The Center will serve the following NY Congressional Districts, NY-006, NY-009, NY-010, NY-011, NY-012 and NY-014 which are located in Kings and Queens Counties and jointly have a population of 4.8m persons, approximately 48% of whom are minorities. RCI projects that 10 % of the population or approximately 500,000 persons will use the range of services offered by the Center over a period of 5 years.

[REDACTED]

Our team to manage this project consists of several highly qualified IT engineers, some with over 25 years industry experience, including in the design, deployment and management of advanced technologies and projects valued at millions of dollars. Their expertise will be supplemented by other relevant specialist skills.

It is projected that as a result of NYS' policies, ARRA investments and the proposed training facility, 5,000 jobs will be enriched, created or saved. The construction and operations of the Center will be a catalyst for economic development.

Constructing, equipping and operating the Center are anticipated to cost \$20m for three years. Based on conservative estimates of income [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], the project will pay for itself in 5 years.