

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** City of Enterprise, AL

**Project Title:** Enterprise Public Computer Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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Enterprise, Alabama, "The City of Progress," is located in the southeast quadrant of the state and is home to Fort Rucker, Alabama, the Home of Army Aviation. While census data shows a population of about 21,000, recent building permit data shows a large growth spurt over the past 9 years. Because of this substantial growth, the city has become aware of a need for more public Internet access, as citizens frequent public facilities such as the library more often. The current economic state of the country has also created an increase in the need for public computer access, as people begin to cut back on spending. The city also hosts a large flight student population, whose daily job is to study and learn the ins and outs of Army Aviation. The students' need for public computer access has grown as well, as more flight students are sent through school each year. With a limited amount of computers currently in the Enterprise Public Library, the city cannot effectively and efficiently service the population and their need for Internet access.

In an effort to address the growing dependence and reliance on fast, efficient Internet access, and the lack of adequate access opportunities in and around Enterprise, the City of Enterprise is proposing the implementation of a Public Computer Center to be centrally located at the existing Enterprise Public Library located at 101 E. Grubbs Street. This center would address the area's need for universal web access that could be available to all citizens, despite economic situation. Universal web access will give citizens the opportunity to pursue higher education opportunities, and expand their knowledge and research skills, which will in turn make them more productive members of society.

The Enterprise Public Library currently houses 11 computer work stations, that are not equipped with up-to-date software and do not have advanced educational programs. The Library experiences such high usage of these mediocre systems, that it has become difficult for them to keep up with the needs of area residents. The City of Enterprise seeks to approach this need by increasing the number of computer stations located at the Enterprise Public Computer Center. The amount of stations will increase from 11 to 36, which will increase the amount of persons served from 365 to 1225 per work week.

In addition to increasing the amount of work stations, the City of Enterprise is also proposing the addition of up to date software and education technology software, which will allow patrons the opportunity to pursue education and educational opportunities that may not have been available prior to the addition of this computer center. The proposed software will include state of the art instructional technology to include webinar software, projection screen, and a SmartBoard. The city proposes to take advantage of this facility and use it for important instructional and training needs within the community. The center will also offer high speed broadband Internet access at 3.00 Mbps, which is faster than the 1.50 Mbps currently offered. This will increase the efficiency and ease of use for Computer Center patrons.

The proposed computer center will service approximately 47,753 people ranging in ages from 5-95. The Enterprise area is home to several military families, school age students, and elderly residents. Enterprise also has a large low-income population who would benefit from the availability of Broadband Internet access. The estimated number of users per work week will increase from 365 persons served to 1225 persons served. The estimated number of users per weekend will increase from 25 persons served to 80 persons served.

If the project is awarded, the construction timeframe will allow for valuable construction and engineering jobs to be retained. Individuals who may not have a project and potentially face lay offs, will be put to work for a period of at least 180 days. In addition, the project will retain valuable librarian assistant positions at the Enterprise Public Library, and will create potential for technical positions within the Enterprise Public Computer Center.

The overall cost of this project, including software upgrades, engineering costs and contingencies is \$483,906.50. The Cit has committed to a 20% portion of \$96,781.30, which will come from the General Fund. This leaves the federal portion at \$387,125.20.