

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Chelmsford Housing Authority

Project Title: Communication for the Ages

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

The Chelmsford Housing Authority has a collaborative relationship with the Chelmsford Council on Aging and Chelmsford Housing Opportunities for Intergenerational and Community Endeavors (CHOICE). The shared mission of these organizations is to assist our senior population with remaining independent and vital in their community. The COA currently has six computer stations with computers donated in 1999. Most of these computers are either non-functioning or so outdated that they cannot be used appropriately. The Chelmsford Housing Authority is requesting \$4,200 from this Broadband USA grant to purchase six new computers for our seniors.

In this Information Age, we strongly believe that the seniors of Chelmsford will greatly benefit from learning how to navigate the web and acquire the ability to communicate electronically. A great many of our seniors have indicated to us that they have a desire to learn how to use computers and, more specifically, how to use the Internet and email. We have heard countless times that the seniors' children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren want to communicate with them via email instead of through phone calls and letters. They long to see pictures of their growing families and they realize that they are missing out by not being able to use the Internet and email.

The COA is the center point for the Chelmsford Housing Authority's North Village Campus, which is home to more than 100 seniors. By the end of 2010, there will be approximately 40 more seniors living at that site.

The senior and disabled are the target population of the Chelmsford Housing Authority and the COA. Greater Chelmsford currently has 7,300 residents age 60 and older. We also serve seniors from many surrounding towns, including Lowell, Dracut, Westford, Tyngsboro and Nashua, N.H. On average, approximately 150 seniors from the Greater Chelmsford area visit the COA.

The upgrading and addition of these six computers will facilitate the revitalization of the North Village Campus Computer Learning Center, therefore offering our community's residents another way in which they can remain a vital and contributing part of the town that they have called home for so many years.