

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: New Jersey Association of Public & Subsidized Housing Residents, Inc.

Project Title: Transitioning Public Housing Resident Councils to Broadband

Project Type: Sustainable Adoption

Executive Summary

Q07 SBA Executive Summary

Under the direct supervision of a fourteen (14) member board comprised of tenants through various counties of the state of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Public and Subsidized Housing for Residents, Inc, (referred to as NJAPSHR) is a statewide resident organization (SRO), organized in 1995 and designated in by the U.S Internal Revenue Services as tax exempt status under Section 501(C) 3 of the U.S. Tax Code. NJAPSHR is dedicated to helping tenants, residing in Public Housing Authorities (referred to as PHA's), throughout the state of New Jersey. NJAPSHR promotes understanding and respect among all races and culture through self-sufficiency training, advocacy, conflict resolution, and education. Over the past twelve years, NJAPSHR has been located in the United Way Building of Essex County at 303 Washington Street 4th Floor Newark, New Jersey 07102.

The sole purpose and mission of NJAPSHR, is to educate, train and to achieve success promoting self-sufficiency for tenants of public housing, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability. NJAPSHR, has the capability to deliver that statement. The NJAPSHR is recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Statewide Resident Organization (SRO).

The tenants of various Public Housing Authorities, within the state of New Jersey, are our agencies' affiliate members and have been for the past twelve years. The Tenant Council Associations, hereby referred to as TCA's, are our active affiliates within our organization.

Currently, throughout the State of New Jersey, NJAPSHR, services over fifty (50) or better tenant association of local public housing authorities; only thirty-seven (37) are active tenant councils. NJAPSHR has the responsibility of promoting self sufficiency programs to tenant leaders and members and the leaders/members reciprocate that training to the tenants of their prospective communities. Whether a TRA is an affiliate or not, we still render our services at their request. Our training services consist of resident organizational skills, self- sufficiency training and to understand and implement government Code of Federal Regulation changes into TRA organization structures. Through learned computer accessibility, improved social status can be achieved. NJAPSHR will be vigilant on training TCA leaders and members in our basic computer skills class.

The combined total of the public housing units of our active TCA'S is 7333 public housing units. NJAPSHR is proposing to service, not less than 25%, or 1834 residents, of the total active 7333 affiliate population. Our goal is that 75% or 1376 tenant leaders and members be trained within the two years of the proposed grant and the remainder in the third year. The measurable outcome and the success of this training will promote sustainable continued training within their public housing community.

Broadband technology is a way of life and effective basic computer training is a viable part of this society. Approximately one million residents are the working poor, whose incomes are less than 50% of the area median. Most families living in affordable rental housing are headed by single women, and more than 50% of the heads of the households are unemployed and lack a high school diploma. Many low-income families living in public housing need social services of the kind found in job training and placement, and other social services — as well as help ridding their communities of crime and drug abuse. Engaging in computer technology basic training will remedy a need of unemployment. Understanding computer technology can also link public housing residents to virtual police stations in the local communities.