

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Palo Alto College

Project Title: Public Computer Centers

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

A. San Antonio, Texas, emerged after the 2000 Census as one of the largest most Hispanic, and fastest-growing cities in the nation. San Antonio is now the seventh largest city in the United States (with a population of 1,267,984). Between 1980 and 2000, San Antonio grew by 45% with Hispanics comprising 61% of the total population. Unfortunately, San Antonio is also a poor city. The city per capita income at \$20,407 and median earnings at \$40,186 are among the lowest in the state and nation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Approximately, 17.3% of San Antonio residents live in poverty compared to 15.4% for the state and 12.4% for the nation. Unemployment in the San Antonio area is also relatively high in Texas and rose to 6.9 percent in June, up from 5.8 percent in May.

B. Palo Alto College proposes to create two Public Computer Centers (one at the Main Campus and one at the Westside Education Training Center) which will consist of approximately 30 Internet accessible computers at each Center with access to a Learning Without Walls and Workforce Development component that will which will encompass: 1) Creating PAC Public Computer Center, open to all members of the community; 2) Creating a One-Stop Workforce Readiness and Employment Center with the Center for Academic Transitions; 3). Providing training in computer literacy at PAC Public Computer Center and in the target area; 4) Providing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) training to surrounding high school students adult literacy classes with a health-specific content at PAC Public Computer Center and in the target area; 5) Hire 8 Instructors to teach the certification classes; 4) Provide software for credit recovery, and tutorial programs homework completion and high school credit recovery.

C. The PCCs plan to serve Congressional Districts 20, 21, 23 and 28 which . San Antonio is now the seventh largest city in the United States (with a population of 1,267,984). Between 1980 and 2000, San Antonio grew by 45% with Hispanics comprising 61% of the total population. 48.7% of the population in San Antonio are male and 51.3% are female. 44% of the San Antonio population speak Spanish and 22% suffer some form of disability. The city per capita income at \$20,407 and median earnings at \$40,186 are among the lowest in the state and nation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Approximately, 17.3% of San Antonio residents live in poverty compared to 15.4% for the state and 12.4% for the nation.

Unemployment in the San Antonio area is also relatively high in Texas and rose to 6.9 percent in June, up from 5.8 percent in May.

The percentage of San Antonio residents who do not graduate from high school and complete college is staggering. Hispanic students are lost from enrollment at higher rates than either White students or African American students. Thus, it should be no surprise that less than 14% of San Antonio adults hold a bachelor's degree and that Hispanics hold college degrees at a lower rate (11%) than the city's Whites (37%) and African Americans (17%). Because San Antonio lags behind other cities in college/university enrollment, broadening access to higher education for the City's residents takes on even greater importance (Brookings Institution, 2003). San Antonio recently ranked 53rd among the nation's 69 largest cities for its percentage of high school and college graduates and last among Texas' largest cities in a recent Census Bureau analysis (25% of those 25 years of age or older have not completed high school and 84.4% have not received a bachelor's degree) (Census Bureau, 2000). The low educational attainment rate of the area is demonstrated in the following table which illustrates the educational attainment gap for residents from the six partnering school districts when compared with San Antonio, Texas and the United States.

Palo Alto College partnering school districts have a high number of poor economically disadvantaged students as illustrated in the following table, the number of students considered Economically Disadvantaged averaged 90% (weighted based on population); all 6 schools are Provision II schools districts in which 100% of the students receive Free Lunch. Additionally, each of the partnering schools possesses a significant percentage of minority students in its student body. The percent of Hispanic students ranges from 76.5% at Southside ISD to 95.8% at South San Antonio ISD. Each of the six partnering schools also possesses a student body where a significant proportion of them are classified as academically at risk.

The Westside Education & Training Center, located in the heart of the Edgewood Independent School District, was opened as an avenue for community residents to attain entry-level occupation skills or increase technical skills to connect to jobs or higher education opportunities. The City of San Antonio, Edgewood Independent School District, Alamo Colleges, and numerous community representatives are working together so that area residents can access this workforce training.

E. The PAC Public Computer Center will be housed at the Palo Alto College and Westside Education & Training Center and consist of 30 computers at each location. The Public Computer Centers, will be used exclusively for members of the community who are not enrolled as credit students at the college. The Public Computer Center will serve 30 high school student in fall and spring semester and 30 during

the summer. The adult literacy center will also serve 30 students in the fall spring and summer each year.

F. The site was chosen because it easily accessible part of the community; it is a place that is safe, that is familiar, and frequently used by the community and offers the possibility of utilizing a current spaces available at both centers. We are requesting \$1,000,000.00 for our Broadband Public Computer Centers, \$500,000.00 for each year.