

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: OneBroward, Inc.

Project Title: OneBroward CAN (Community Action Network) / 1B-CAN

Project Type: Sustainable Adoption

Executive Summary

The OneBroward CAN (1B-CAN) Project is a comprehensive digital inclusion program to support digital empowerment in Broward County's underserved community through:

- Computer ownership in the underserved community-computer recycling programs
- CAN-DO student interns-refurbish computers and tech support
- Community-based technology training-21st Century skills to improve quality of life
- Broadband Wireless hotspots in underserved areas-OneBroward Digital Network Access (1B-DNA)
- CAN-DO scholarships to higher ed institution-"grow our own" tech experts
- CAN Steering Committee-community leaders to promote digital empowerment

OneBroward CAN (Community Action Network), a social networking & community building portal, is built upon "Google Apps Education Edition", an integrated communication and collaboration solution. There is no cost for non-profits for Google to provide a hosted portal for email, calendar, chat and site creation. The digital doors to OneBroward CAN portal can quickly open with customization from the Urban Youth CAN-DO (Community Action Network-Digital Operations) team, a student internship program. There is a rich digital content already developed from OneBroward anchor institutions for education, public safety, public health, and local government. The portal can be replicated in any community in the U.S. and is free for non-profits. Google's hosting model enables communities to startup their community action network with no investment expenses for centralized hardware or software.

To enhance education, cloud computing and desktop virtualization technologies are deployed for public school students to take online classes from any broadband wireless device. Deployment of this technology supports 21st Century learning for high school students and has local and national impact. It will build a model, demonstrate efficacy of model, and advocate for E-rate eligibility of low-cost

broadband devices for students taking online classes. OneBroward CAN develop a blueprint to implement this model for other school districts to follow, and OneBroward CAN advocate for E-rate eligibility of low-cost broadband devices for students enrolled in online classes. The growth of online learning is shown by Sloan Consortium research, which says 700,000 K-12 students took online classes last year, and 63% of school districts have students enrolled in online courses. Another 20% of districts plan to launch such classes in the next three years. This is the group's first survey of online learning in elementary and secondary education. The survey results also suggest that online learning is meeting the specific needs of a range of students, including those who need extra help, those who want to take more advanced courses, and those whose districts do not have enough teachers to offer certain subjects.

Computer ownership is listed as a barrier to broadband adoption in underserved communities. 1B-CAN expands existing Digital Divide programs to refurbish and recycle computers for eligible low-income families. Expansion is built upon existing programs at Broward County Public Schools and Broward College. Since 2004, Broward College (BC) has sponsored a personal computer giveaway program. The goal of this project is to assist BC students who cannot afford a computer at home. To date, over 2,200 students have received these computers. Since 2005, the school district has distributed nearly 3,000 computers to eligible families. Student CAN-DO interns will refurbish computers and learn tech skills. Students successfully completing the paid internships can apply for scholarships to higher ed, such as Broward College, in a "grow your own" model for ongoing tech support. Digital divide programs require recipients to attend a 3 hour tech training class. Technology training will be expanded into the underserved community through libraries, parks, homeowners' associations, and churches by teaching the community how technology can improve the quality of life with topics like how to renew your drivers' license online, how to look at your checking account online, and how to compare prices of consumer goods online. Training will also show community how to use the portal for email and calendaring of community events, how to email a relative in the military, how to look at your child's school attendance, and where to get flu shots. The OneBroward CAN project will provide technology training to the underserved communities to utilize these digital resources, and will collaborate with the Public Libraries to enhance their training program and also to utilize their community computer centers. The public library can also incorporate training utilizing the OneBroward CAN digital resources to enhance its own offerings.

Grant funds will hire a Community Liaison, an established community leader in the underserved community. The Community Liaison will be a catalyst to engage existing networks within the underserved community to promote a model of digital empowerment. The Liaison will provide outreach via established gatherings such as city meetings, workshops, League of Cities, homeowners associations, minority business organization, and churches. The Liaison will chair a Steering Committee of elected minority officials, community empowerment organizations, and community leaders to promote tech

careers for students, tech skills for adults, and engage community activists in sustaining the momentum to have digital inclusion replace digital divide.