

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: AME OUTREACH PROGRAM CORPORATION

Project Title: Math Science Technology Educational Center Broadband Initiative (MSTEC Broadband Initiative)

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

Due to the economic crisis our society faces outdated technology within congregations and small disadvantaged businesses has been part of the discussions of weekly, monthly and quarterly meetings. These meetings disturbed Rev. Karen D. Harrison, who sought God to open the door that would allow opportunities for the congregations and communities to better serve the vulnerable and underserved. Rev. Karen D. Harrison has interpose the awareness of broadband technology in less than fourteen days and have erected a large following of faith base institutions, community-base partners and government interest both by advice and assistance in support of bringing healing and restoration to a troubling community and world that is forcing many to face an inability to compete in a high technology driven society.

Looking forward, demands on housing, citizen re-entry, and lack of workforce development has caused many communities to suffer. The lack of access for people with disabilities and jobs for youth (i.e. 17,000 youth will reenter the unemployment lines after the underfunded summer jobs program ends), and welfare recipients forced to remain on welfare because no training was provided to transition them into prevailing wage paying jobs, is alarming. The connection of community, faith base and government liberates any further perplexity in addressing community capacity to address these challenges. Traditionally, faith base in its approach, would visit house to house in assisting congregants under their care. Broadband technology as a tool, allows communication between congregants who no longer are physically able to leave their homes and participate in community worship. It can also address the problem of dullness and lazy characteristic of vulnerable and underserved citizens by giving them the knowledge or skills that affords them the opportunity to maneuver in society. This program and consortium of resources allows the union of community and faith base to work, grounded in seriousness, alarm, love and meekness that prevents further paralysis of our community. Statistics show that we are at an all time high in unemployment which reduces people back to the dependency on their community. The housing foreclosure rate shows a need to preserve and create a sustainable job market, in effort to alleviate the rise of homelessness. Broadband has demonstrated its ability to mobilize and motive people; for example the launch of company's like Google during Reaganomics, created a vast number of jobs and was instrumental in economic growth.

The Math Science Technology Education Center Broadband Initiative (MSTEC) is being implemented to provide broadband access and capacity to vulnerable and underserved populations (e.g., low-income,

unemployed, ex-offenders, under-employed and disabled persons. Additionally the MSTEC will also preserve and create jobs, build infrastructure and promote a systematic economic stimulus in areas that have been historically underserved in terms of investment and technology.

The MSTEC is innovative in its approach because it has a user friendly menu of options that normally do not appear in the software of the many available computer stations located for example throughout the Washington DC, Ward 8 region. For far too long, many individuals have designed computer literacy programs that concentrated on the hardware of the computer system rather than the software. The MSTEC will allow for all computer networks encompassing the target territory to be equipped with the latest software which will allow for the user to have a more comprehensive and rewarding experience while utilizing the available public computers in their region.

The MSTEC will be serving, for example, the Washington DC Ward 8 region, population 75,000 (estimated), 95% African-American (many of which live in the targeted areas that will be enhanced by increased broadband access). Over 55,000 users, ages 10 through 59 will be able to access the public computer centers and the potential number of broadband subscribers is estimated to be around 100,000.

The individuals that will staff the MSTEC has the relevant skill, experience and technical knowledge to implement the program, guide it through its first two years and ensure that it is a viable self-sustaining program during the third year of the program.

The potential for job creation is tremendous approximately three thousand, due to the entrepreneurial aspect of the internet and the technical skills that individuals can garner through broadband access.

The project proposed budget as stated is thirty eight million and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (38,250,000.), which federal request as stated is twenty-five million (25,000,000.), and applicant in-kind is five million (5,000,000.) and program income is eight million and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (8,250,000.) to execute the BTOP Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption under the guidelines of the Department of Commerce.