

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** City Of Grapevine

**Project Title:** Community Outreach Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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Residents residing around the Community Outreach Center consist of (but not limited to) minority and single parent families, unemployed individuals, at risk/high risk children, and lower social economic families. Many of the families in this area speak little to no English and do not possess the technical job skills needed in order to obtain a higher paying job than what they currently have or to find decent employment. Because of the economic status of many of these families, a means of transportation is not available or is on a limited basis. Since Grapevine does not currently have a public transportation system, the residents living in this area may not be able to take advantage of the Public Library approximately 4 miles away. Less than half a mile away from the Community Outreach Center is two public schools, Grapevine High School and Timberline Elementary. With one or both parents in a family working numerous hours to make ends meet, many of the children living in this area do not have a positive influence in their lives on a daily basis. They do not have a place to go to after school that would help them to use their time constructively, teach them computer skills that would benefit them in their future, and to help build them up positively and emotionally.

The Community Outreach Center will focus on taking a proactive approach by re-investing in the surrounding community to assist the residents in obtaining a better quality of life. The Center will provide computer literacy training classes to adults to help them learn the computer skills needed to either make advancement at their current job or to help them qualify for a higher paying job if they had the necessary technical skills. Since many of the residents speak little to no English, the Center will partner with Literacy Instruction For Texas (LIFT) to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to assist adults in the work force and children who are currently in school. The Community Outreach Center will also partner with the Grapevine/Colleyville Independent School District (GCISD) to provide computer literacy classes to both adults and children. The Center will be a location where children can go to do homework and to utilize broadband services for class research. Since this Center will be overseen by the Crime Prevention Division of the Grapevine Police Department, it will provide a positive influence for the children and will assist the children in viewing Police Officers in a different light – one that is positive instead of negative.

We have an innovative approach because we have strategically located our Community Outreach Center directly in the area of need. We will provide numerous training programs within walking distance at no cost to the residents living around the center. This is a positive, pro-active approach because the adults and children would be able to take full advantage of a facility located right in their neighborhood.

Grapevine is home to approximately 50,000 residents. There are a mixture of many different ethnic backgrounds and ancestry with 82% Caucasian, 18% Hispanic or Latino, 3% African American, 3% Asian, and 10% Other. The average Grapevine resident age is 35 and the average family household income ranges from \$79,105 - \$96,502. The Community Outreach Center area is surrounded by 5 apartment complexes and 2 mobile home parks with approximately 6,000 residents living in this area. Of the 6,000 residents, 1,200 of those residents would potentially utilize the public computer center.

Senior Officers Tim Gill, Scott Rhodes, and Jason Keller make up the Crime Prevention Division of the Grapevine Police Department. They are involved in many crime prevention and community service programs such as educational programs for children (Career Day, Eddie Eagle, and Officer Friendly), Bicycle Rodeos (program teaching bicycle safety), Bears on Patrol (toy bears provided to children experiencing crises), and Neighborhood Watch (program encouraging neighbors to know each other and to be on the watch for suspicious activity) to name a few. They also mentor children and host seasonal events such as Summer Kids and Santa Cops. Jason Keller is the Site Coordinator for the Community Outreach Center. He will oversee the daily activities of the Center as well as schedule and coordinate the training classes and the instructors involved in teaching those classes. Loan Phan-Franco, Assistant I.T. Manager in the City's Information Technology Department, will oversee the ordering, installation and configuration of both software and hardware, and the testing of the computer equipment. She has 14 years of experience in the I.T. field.

The Community Outreach Center will need to create one new, paid position for this proposed project. This position will assist the Site Coordinator, Jason Keller, in managing the daily activities of the facility as well as coordinating the weekly computer training classes. This new position will also be responsible for teaching some of the computer literacy classes. A future goal for this position will be to hire a qualified resident in the surrounding Community Outreach area in order to promote a sense of camaraderie and achievement among the residents.

The total cost of this proposed project is \$74,942. \$3,000 will go towards infrastructure equipment, \$5,200 will go towards the installation of network connectivity, \$66,128 will go towards laptops, printers, copier/scanner/fax, card readers, overhead projectors, and screens. \$8,814 will go towards software for the laptops which will include Microsoft Office 2007, graphic editing software, tutorials for

self study, resume maker application, tax application, virus scanning software, and workstation security software. The City Of Grapevine will provide 20% of the matching funds for the total in the amount of \$14,988. The requested funding amount for the grant is \$59,954.