

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Independence Hall Mutual Housing Association

**Project Title:** Independence Hall Computers-for-All

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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The IH Computers-for-Residents Program targets a population of over 300 senior and disabled residents at Independence Hall Apartments. The purpose is to provide access to computers, provide training, to overcome all the disability problems and age-related, education level related, and attitude related issues that keep people in this population from attempting to use computers. All IH residents are very low-income (and 95% earn less than \$10000), and about 140 IH residents are over age 62 and the remainder are disabled, in keeping with the HUD 236 program that financed and governs the management of the property.

The Program will replace an obsolete computer room with 20 new computers, along with assistive technology hardware and software that will enable people with various disabilities to use the computers. It will create a wireless network and put 50 computers into residents' homes. There will be 10 classes over two years to teach, train, encourage, and enable IH residents to utilize a computer, and there will be a training program for volunteers to be able to continue to assist IH residents after the two year Program is completed.

The people who will implement the program have worked for Independence Hall for ten years and have initiated three computer centers at apartment properties, including Independence Hall.

The overall cost of the program is \$202,220, with \$138,920 of BTOP funds and \$63,300 in matching funds and resources.