

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: City of Rancho Cucamonga

Project Title: RC Family Resource Center Community Connections Computer Center

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

The RC Family Resource Center is the first of its kind in the west end of San Bernardino County, fully supporting the Rancho Cucamonga Community Services Department's mission of 'Touching Every Life.' Unlike many other emerging Resource Centers which focus on homelessness, it is a place where people from all walks of life, including children, individuals, and families can connect to resources they need. The facility is a centrally located public community center and hub for non-profit, social service, and community groups to provide aid to the community; offering resources, referrals, workshops and information on services and programs that are available to individuals and families. Currently, the RC Family Resource Center serves approximately 300 people per week and with the creation of the Community Connections Computer Center, the estimated number of people served will rise to 600 per week.

The RC Family Resource Center is located in the Northtown area of Rancho Cucamonga, which is one of the oldest neighborhoods, located in the Community Development Block Grant area, and has the largest concentration of socio-economic disadvantaged families, with 3 out of 4 household living at or below the poverty line. The most recent Census data indicating the population of the area is 28,809, 72% of the population is Hispanic and 27% of children entering kindergarten last school year did not speak English. Unemployment rate for the whole city is currently at 8.9% (15,513) with a large concentration of these individuals living in the target service area.

Compounded with the current economic struggles many families are facing with job loss, restricted accessibility to education, schools, food and support services, these families continue to fall below the already existing low-economic standards. Now more than ever, these children and families need support services and accessibility to training, education, and employment skill building and support services to give them the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and raise to a better standard of living. The Community Connections Computer Center project proposes a 20 station public computer center and teaching lab, with the installation of an additional 2 dedicated computer stations for employment search and support services. These computers would be accessible to the public, with an emphasis on providing outreach and services for meeting the need of the community members residing in the neighboring low income areas. This project will help to bridge the gap of the underserved

population and provide access to quality educational workshops, employment services and programs through the power of community collaboration and Key Partners. The RC Family Resource Center was designed to foster human development and support the physical, psychological, sociological and recreational needs of all community members, and serve as a catalyst for creating the opportunity for personal and professional success for our children and families. This project will help to further this mission by leveraging resources from multiple sources for sustainability, diversity and accessibility.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga is prepared to implement the project and has identified dedicated space at the RC Family Resource Center to convert to a public computer center. Coupled with the City's previous experience with grant awards from Community Development Block Grant funding allocation, First 5 Commission of San Bernardino, California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, San Bernardino County Office of Aging and Adult Services, and the Department of Health and Human Services Administration of Aging, the City of Rancho Cucamonga is a qualified applicant to implement and achieve its intended results.

Additionally, this project will directly create 3 new positions to work in the computer center, with the indirect goals of supporting unemployed community members through educational workshops, job skill training programs and employment support services to find and gain employment.

The total grant cost is \$458,322 with a request for Federal funds in the amount of \$277,772 and Matching Funds (in-kind) provided in the amount of \$180,550. The RC Family Resource Center Community Connections Computer Center is a three year program with funding requests for hardware, software, furniture, supplies and staffing assistance for the complete duration of the three year period. In-kind support of staff and labor resources will be provided from three City Departments and 6 community Key Partners. Upon completion of the grant period, the RC Family Resource Center Community Connections Computer Center will continue to operate in the similar capacity as the community requires it, with supervision and programming provided and coordinated by the Community Services Department and technology support provided by the Information Services Department, and workshops and services provided by community partner organizations.