

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Hart County Public Library

**Project Title:** Hart County Public Library Technology Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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A. STATEMENT OF NEED: Hart County is a poor, rural, agricultural community with a median personal income of \$15,926.00 and a current unemployment rate of 10.6%. Although our present library facility is in good condition, it is only 8,350 square feet and far below minimum standards to serve our population of 18,409. Many citizens in Hart County cannot afford computers in their home and rely on the library for internet connection. We need a computer center to offer our community the next level of technology, services and training.

B. APPROACH TO NEED: We will construct an 8,400 square foot addition to the existing library. This will house a technology center with 20 adult computers, 10 children and 10 teen/young adult patron access computers. Since Hart County has a high number of disabled(26%), elderly and poverty stricken people this center will be designed to meet their specific needs for education, training, and connectivity. The building project includes an elevator to make the facility handicapped accessible. This grant will provide the facility and hardware and software that will allow the economic, social, governmental, and personal changes that high speed communications entail.

C. Service Area: Hart County (Pop. 18409) and surrounding counties. We expect over 20,000 people to use our computer center each year, with many of our existing(over 50) community partners holding trainings in the facility.

D. The Hart County Public Library is a well established community institution, with all operating financial, record keeping and administrative positions in place.

E. Jobs saved or created: 2 full time and 2 part-time jobs will be created in house, in addition to the many people employed in the construction of the facility.

F. Cost of the project: \$1,700,000.00