

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Bluegrass Area Development District

Project Title: Bluegrass Broadband Access for Seniors

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

Lack of familiarity with computers and broadband services retards broadband adoption and utilization results among the senior demographic. This project's goal is to increase opportunities to access broadband services by isolated (geographically and socially) and currently underserved populations. By increasing accessibility, promoting availability, and providing a sustainable training curriculum and plan, the project will increase both access to and use of the invaluable information, communication, and consumer resource tools that broadband represents.

This project will serve 17 counties in Kentucky across 18 facilities. Based on 2008 Census data, there are 126,915 eligible participants aged 60 and over.

These counties are: Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, and Woodford County. This project will install thirty-one new workstations and replace fifteen outdated workstations in these named counties.

The Bluegrass Area Development District is uniquely positioned, staffed, and equipped to carry out the goals and objectives of this project. Further, the Bluegrass Area Development District enjoys the confidence and trust of all of the project partners, and perhaps most importantly, maintains a strong on-going services support and grant planning and procurement relationship with city and county planning and fiscal entities in all seventeen counties - - these bodies contribute to the annual operating budgets for the eighteen Community Senior Citizens Centers, and provide space, fiduciary functions, staff, and a local mandate to carry on activities and programs that support older adults.

The Bluegrass Area Development District has functioned as a regional planning and development partner to cities and counties, as well as to state and federal cabinets, departments, commissions, and advisory bodies for 35 years. The District enjoys good working relations with leaders across the region, and is a recognized and trusted source for identifying grant opportunities, for spearheading grant procurement efforts, and for organizing and prioritizing applications for both local and regional grant-funded projects. The Bluegrass Area Development District has the staff, the knowledge, and credentialed expertise needed to address any number of local or regional planning challenges, the experience to maximize opportunities for securing and ultimately managing grants, and the ability to leverage historical partnerships, existing infrastructure, and limited resources to the best advantage of as many area residents as possible.

Finally, many of the project partners also have an equally notable history of collaborative and successful grant writing and effective project management. They have worked in partnership with the Bluegrass Area Development District, but also with one another, for many years. Including these entities in the project partnership provide even more experience and expertise than the District can provide on its own. These partners also contribute a more local “face” to the installation, maintenance, support, and training activities associated with this broadband accessibility grant project.

This project’s total cost will be \$116,900.00.