

## Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** Community Outreach Services Corporation

**Project Title:** Community Outreach Services Corporation Community Educational & Personal Development Opportunities

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### Executive Summary

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Community Outreach Service Corporation's program addresses the need to assist vulnerable individuals (youth, adults, seniors) in obtaining access to educational programming to further their development as individuals. Lack of financial resources, job loss, low educational level, low self-esteem, and community distress are some of the factors which contribute to the need for these programs.

The program will consist of eleven training sites located within the Southern Great Lakes Region of Michigan. Equipment will be purchased to allow broadband access to broadcast educational programs amongst the eleven locations. A main hub will be set up adjacent to the Detroit locations to act as the headquarters for which all sites will be accountable to. Community partnerships will be established within these jurisdictions to determine course offerings and specific target audience. Partnerships with local public schools, colleges, social service agencies and the like will be obtained. Classes offered will include courses in Job Training & Professional Development; Pre-Employment Training; High School Degree programs; College Degree/Certificate Programs; After School Tutoring for Youth; Computer Literacy; Personal Development and Health & Wellness Programs.

Classes will be offered in the following locations: Detroit (2 sites), Highland Park, Riverview, Lansing, Jackson, Charlotte, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Muskegon. Population within a 1.5-5 mile radius of the training sites totals 1,044,487. All locations have average household incomes below the U.S. Average of \$66,670. Detroit, Highland Park, and Muskegon have high school graduation rates (70%-78%) below the U.S. Average of 80%. Detroit, Highland Park, Grand Rapids, Flint, Jackson, Muskegon and Kalamazoo have individuals living below poverty levels of 14%-30%. The U.S. Average is 13%. Unemployment rates for these areas include Kalamazoo 12.2%, Lansing 12.3%, Jackson 15.5%, Muskegon 16.8%, Detroit 17.1% and Flint 17.4%. The U.S. Average is 9.7%. High Racial Diversity exists within these areas including Detroit (85% African/American, 2% Hispanic), Highland Park (91% African American), Riverview (4% African/American, 5% Hispanic, 2% Asian), Grand Rapids (17% African/American, 16% Hispanic, 3% Asian), Lansing (22% African/American, 8% Hispanic, 3% Asian), Charlotte (4% Hispanic), Flint (29% African/American, 3% Hispanic, 1% Asian), Jackson (16% African/American, 4% Hispanic, 1% Asian), Muskegon (25% African/American, 6% Hispanic) and

Kalamazoo (14% African/American, 4% Hispanic, 3% Asian). The majority of the vulnerable individuals tend to be ages 7-47, come from Somewhat Low to Very Low Non-Traditional Families and Somewhat Low to Extremely Low Educational Backgrounds. 26%-61% are single moms. Household Concerns which tend to be above the national average include Employment, Crime/Drugs; Food; Affordable Housing; Schools & Education; Child Care and Relationships.

We estimate that the program, with 264 available broadband workstations, has the capacity to serve 2,464 individuals within a 168 hour week or 128,128 individuals annually, equally 12% of the total population.

The nonprofit corporation and its contracted management company, Paragon Management, Inc., have over twenty years experience in operating federally funded programs through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education. These programs include low income elderly housing, congregate and home-delivered meals for the elderly, and education/training programs for youth, adults and the elderly. The nonprofit corporation has a combined annual budget of over \$3.5 million of federally assisted programs. Paragon Management, Inc. currently supervises budgets over \$5.4 million in federally assisted programs. The nonprofit corporation has received federal grants totally \$1.1 million in the past and Paragon Management, Inc. has administered and supervised federal grants totally \$2.9 million. Neither has received any audit or program assessment/review findings with any of the federal agencies. Many of their projects together have received commendations from these federal agencies and industry associations. Both organizations have the experience and dedication to achieve success with this program.

A strong emphasize of the program will include job training and re-training to prepare older youth and adults for the changing job environment in Michigan. Factory jobs will no longer be Michigan's bread and butter. Individuals will need to learn new skills to obtain sustainable, well-paying positions in other industries besides the automotive industry. It is imperative for educational opportunities such as these to make these individuals employable again.

The overall cost of this project is \$4,525,954 with \$3,568,411 of grant funding and \$957,543 of applicant/other source funding, both cash and in kind.