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Organization:	OneCommunity
Project Name:	Connect Your Community
Project Type:	Sustainable Broadband Adoption
State(s):	Ohio, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi
Federal Award:	\$18,701,771

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Connect Your Community (CYC) project intends to use an innovative and collaborative strategy to expand broadband adoption by almost 20,000 households in targeted communities in five states. Expanding on successful existing Cleveland-area programs, OneCommunity plans to work with non-profit and community organizations to implement neighbor-to-neighbor broadband adoption and awareness campaigns reaching 334,000 low-income individuals and to provide training and services to 33,000 people in Akron, Cleveland, and Zanesville, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Gulfport/Biloxi, Mississippi; Lexington, Kentucky; and Bradenton, Florida. Grant funds will enable project partners, including Urban League centers, libraries, schools, economic development agencies, and human service and housing organizations, to host computer classes and utilize online resources to fulfill their missions. The project plans to employ survey techniques to measure broadband adoption among program participants and track the program's success over time.

The Connect Your Community project also proposes to:

- Recruit and train 90 unemployed or underemployed residents of targeted communities to work as members of a "CYC Corps" charged with increasing broadband awareness, teaching basic skills related to broadband technology, and stimulating household adoption of broadband. Provide CYC Corps members with an estimated 600 hours of training.
- Offer CYC project partner organizations resources such as new computer labs and access to an online forum for collaborative curriculum development resources that will support on going efforts to provide broadband-related training and services to their clients.
- Work with Internet providers to offer affordable broadband service, and provide access to affordable equipment for individuals who complete training.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Connect Your Community is a collaborative effort between OneCommunity and several community partner organizations. The organization, founded in 2003 as a public-private partnership, connects nearly 1,500 community anchor institutions in 22 counties in Northeast Ohio via its fiber-optic network. OneCommunity supports the development and administration of technology applications in health care, education, government, arts and economic development. Two minority-owned small businesses, Corporate F.A.C.T.S, and ShinyDoor, are expected to support the project's compliance requirements and community outreach efforts.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Akron Urban League
- Appalachian Center for Collaborative and Engaged Learning
- Cleveland Housing Network
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- The Manatee Education Foundation
- Focus Hope
- Urban League of Lexington

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.broadbandusa.gov.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

