Organization: Government of the District of Columbia  
Project Name: DC Community Computing Resources  
Project Type: Public Computer Center  
State: District of Columbia  
Federal Award: $1,553,310  

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The District of Columbia’s Community Computing Resources project (DC-CCR) proposes to mitigate the overcrowding and long wait times currently experienced at District libraries and recreation centers. The project, led by the DC Public Library, plans to serve the entire District but focus on economically vulnerable populations, especially seniors, students, the unemployed, and low-income residents largely in Wards 5, 7 and 8, in communities such as Eckington, Kenilworth, and Anacostia where broadband adoption rates are low. The DC-CCR project proposes to provide computer skills, job search, and Internet use training via current library staff, outside instructors, and local volunteer experts, while upgrading equipment and improving connectivity for public use at 24 public libraries and new computer centers in two recreation centers, three public schools, and one community college library. The project aims to increase access speeds at participating libraries up to 1 Gbps, which would also increase the capacity at Wi-Fi hotspots currently available to library patrons.

DC-CCR proposes to:

- Reduce wait times by deploying as many as 1,070 new workstations at public computing centers, while upgrading 30 of the 603 computers currently available to the targeted population.
- Serve as many as an additional 52,900 users every week and increase broadband speeds at participating computer centers from 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps.
- Train 8,000 people, including the unemployed and people with disabilities, in computer, Internet, and job search skills, by utilizing up to 24,000 hours of teacher-led training offered over the life of the project.

ORGANIZATION’ S HISTORY

The DC Public Library has provided public access computers for over a decade. With a full staff, including certified systems engineers, the library manages over 1,000 desktops across the District.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- District of Columbia Public Schools
- District of Columbia Department of Parks & Recreation
- District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer
- University of the District of Columbia
- Allied Telecom (a small socially-disadvantaged business)
- Custom Integrated Solutions (a small socially-disadvantaged business)