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Organization:	Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee, Inc.
Project Name:	Headwaters Tribal Computer Centers
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State(s):	Minnesota
Federal Award:	\$1,722,371

ABOUT THE PROJECT

High poverty levels and limited educational opportunities combine to limit tribal members' access to computers and broadband technology in Minnesota. The **Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee's** Headwaters Tribal Computer Centers project plans to tackle this problem by creating seven new public computer centers and expanding or upgrading ten existing facilities on three Ojibwe and Chippewa Indian reservations in Minnesota. The centers will be located at Boys and Girls Clubs within tribally-operated community centers, providing public access to all residents. The Clubs will implement a variety of training opportunities for tribal members of all ages, including computer and technology instruction and small business counseling for adults. The project plans to make a total of 224 work stations available and serve an estimated 5,400 people weekly.

The Headwaters Tribal Computer Centers project proposes to:

- Encourage children and students to use the centers to complete homework assignments, learn new software, use web-based programs for career exploration, develop computer skills, and learn Ojibwe languages.
- Target parents of children enrolled in Boys and Girls Clubs, as well as tribal elders, for training sessions.
- Increase the technological capabilities of small businesses on the three reservations by providing access, computer and technology training, and counseling through the Bemidji State University Small Business Development Center.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The three Indian reservations of Leech Lake, Red Lake Nation, and White Earth Band of Ojibwe, located in north central and northwest Minnesota, are the three largest land-area reservations in Minnesota. Leech Lake and White Earth reservations are part of the Ojibwa Nation and Red Lake is a member of the Chippewa Nation. The Leech Lake Band is serving as the lead entity, but has partnered with the local Boys and Girls Clubs, that will implement the project as a sub-recipient. The local Boys and Girls Clubs are well-established organizations on the reservations, with strong ties to the community and existing facilities and staff. The national organization has a strong computer curriculum and a history of creating a productive and safe environment for children.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Leech Lake, White Earth Reservation, and Red Lake
- Bemidji State University Small Business Development Center

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.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

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

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