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| Organization: | WorkForce West Virginia |
| Project Name: | One-Stop Public Computer Center Modernization |
| Project Type: | Public Computer Center |
| State(s): | West Virginia |
| Federal Award: | \$1,901,600 |

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The One-Stop Public Computer Center Modernization project plans to improve access to job information, career counseling, and skills training by upgrading and expanding 20 WorkForce West Virginia One-Stop career centers throughout the state. This project intends to replace all of the existing 165 computer workstations at the centers, add 80 new workstations, and enable each center to remain open an average of six additional hours per week. The centers upgraded through this project will provide high speed Internet access and critical job training services to unemployed, low-income, and other residents throughout the state. The improved centers are expected to attract almost 2,300 additional users per week, nearly double their current traffic, through a marketing and direct mail campaign aimed at local residents, especially the unemployed, veterans, seniors, and low-income individuals.

The One-Stop Public Computer Center Modernization project also proposes to:

- Increase broadband speeds at each center to 3-10 Mbps.
- Collaborate with the West Virginia Departments of Education and Health and Human Resources to offer vocational education and job training using computers and broadband technology.
- Offer AARP-sponsored training focused on workforce preparation skills for persons aged 55 and up.
- Equip each computer center with videoconferencing capability.
- Provide Wi-Fi access at each center to increase broadband access for users with their own laptop computers.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

WorkForce West Virginia is a governmental organization that operates a network of workforce development services designed to provide residents and employers with the opportunity to compete in today's competitive global economy. The organization has extensive experience managing state and federal grant programs as a recipient of \$4.54 million in Workforce Investment Act funding, and \$1.97 million in Department of Labor funding. It created the One-Stop Public Computer Center system 10 years ago to better serve West Virginia's job seekers and to offer e-literacy and job training programs.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- AARP Foundation
- West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services
- West Virginia Department of Education
- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
- West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services
- West Virginia Office of Technology

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant.

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

