Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: New Hampshire State Library

Project Title: Mobile Computer Labs for Training in New Hampshire

Project Type: Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary ______________________

In New Hampshire the public libraries in each of our 234 communities, cities and towns are anchor institutions. They serve the informational and recreational needs of our citizens. The state does not have either county or regional library systems. The small locally based library relies on the State Library for a great deal of assistance. This includes informational resources such as access to full text databases, consulting services and training, all of which the State Library provides.

In rural areas of New Hampshire the ability of the citizens to get high speed internet services is limited. Costs of such services are a major impediment to adoption and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. The public libraries in our large cities and smallest towns have always been institutions that provide access to those citizens who are not able to afford these resources in their homes.

It is clear that more and more information is provided via the internet. Critical computer skills need to be taught to our citizens; this is best done through our public libraries. The state of New Hampshire, through its web presences, (45 agencies, numerous commissions and committees) is putting more and more information on the Web to inform its citizens, this includes fill-able forms and documents of all types. As our population ages greater need for access to these tools will increase.