The City of Dayton proposes to implement the Dayton Digital Development (3D) Public Access Program. The Public Access Program will be implemented as part of a comprehensive plan, along with the 3D broadband infrastructure improvement application and the 3D Sustainable Broadband Adoption Application. Together, these initiatives will address Dayton’s significant digital divide issues, enhance economic development and will provide improved municipal, health, and educational services.

Dayton is an extremely poor community. According to the 2000 census, 6,882 families or 18% of the total family population were impoverished. According to more recent estimates 24% of families are in poverty. The economics of the local economy are not improving. Additionally, more than 21% of the area’s residents are minorities. With poverty levels rising and considering the nature of its vulnerable population, the City of Dayton understands that access to computers is vitally important to reversing the current economic trends. The City seeks to establish new public computer centers and expand existing centers to: (1) promote training, education, support and awareness programs; and (2) to facilitate access to broadband services for vulnerable impoverished populations as well as people with disabilities.

The City proposes to address the need for computer access by focusing on high traffic areas in specified community anchor institutions. The City will partner with the Dayton Metropolitan Library to install and expand computer centers in each of the library branches. Additionally, computer centers will be installed at four strategically located city owned recreation and community facilities. As a result, all of Montgomery County, Ohio will be served by the proposed computer centers. By focusing on the library branches, Dayton intends to accomplish the goal of the Public Access Program funding opportunity by enhancing opportunities in locations already frequented for community services. The populations that the City seeks to serve already visit libraries, recreation centers, and community center and, upon award of this grant, those individuals will have the opportunity to utilize new or expanded computer facilities.

According to a recent phone survey conducted of Montgomery County area residents, 43% of the 476,000 area residents visited library branches over the past year to use currently existing computer
center facilities. With the plans to renovate and expand computer centers, it is anticipated that this number will grow.

The overall costs for the Public Access Program will be $965,770 and, in addition to the more than 100 jobs to be created as a result of the 3D infrastructure program, the Public Access Program will create an estimated 10 jobs. The City of Dayton will partner with the Dayton Metropolitan Library to implement the Public Access Program. The City and the Library manage multi-million dollar budgets, manage several diverse departments and have implemented similar programs previously. As a result, they each have the requisite skill and staff power to implement the Public Access Program.