Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** Youth Policy Institute

**Project Title:** LA Family Technology Project

**Project Type:** Sustainable Adoption

_______________________ Executive Summary __________________________

Families in Pacoima and Pico Union/Westlake lack computers and broadband access. YPI has learned this firsthand operating the Family Technology Project since 2001. According to broadband penetration rate information provided by March 16, 2009 FCC Form 477 filings by state video franchise holders and affiliates in California, only 30.2% of residents in these census tracts (2089.04, 2083, 2091.01, 2092, 2091.02, 2089.02, 2089.03, 2088, 2087.2, 2084, 2085, 2086.2, 2086.1, 1046.2, 1043.2, 1044.01, 1047.01, 1046.1, 1048.1, 1048.2, 1045, 1044.02, and 1043.1) utilize broadband. Poverty, lack of infrastructure, language skills, and lack of knowledge are key difficulties that the Project will address. In Pacoima, 86% of children in the thirteen area schools are eligible for the federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program, an indicator of family poverty. In Pico Union, 90.3% of children enrolled in eleven area schools are eligible for Lunch Program.

The proposed expansion of FTP will provide training in broadband technology as well as home laptop computers for low income families with children at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and charter schools in the communities of Pacoima and Pico Union. FTP will promote broadband access by working with partners to provide computer literacy classes, laptops at no cost, and access to online content (education and job training programs operated by YPI and partners) available via broadband accounts that will also be provided to families.

Online program resources will include adapting YPI’s afterschool, adult education and job training program curricula for online use. YPI will design and implement LA ParentSmart, an online portal of resources and training for parents. The Project will link with the California Emerging Technology Fund’s School2Home program, which is providing laptops and broadband service to low-income students attending every one of California’s 539 underperforming middle schools. The Family Technology Project will serve students in grades 4-5 and 9-10, while the School2Home program provides laptops for grades 6-8 students.

FTP provides innovative access to broadband technologies through programs and content that makes broadband attractive to very low income consumers. It merges hands on technology in the home with
practical instruction, as well as providing access to exciting ways to utilize computers and broadband access. FTP seeks to validate strong research that demonstrates the importance of integrating technology with useful information of relevance to the target low income families. Outcomes for the Project will include 3,000 families that will enroll in and graduate from the 50 hour computer literacy course, and receive laptops and broadband access in their homes. All 3,000 families will receive user names and passwords for LA ParentSmart. 2,240 additional families homes will access broadband education and training materials through LA ParentSmart. 600 clients will use interactive components, including the creation of blogs and social networking activities.

The Pacoima and Pico Union communities have a population of 131,138, according to 2008 Census estimates. In Pacoima, 86% of children in the thirteen area public schools are eligible for the federal Free or Reduced-Price Lunch program, a leading indicator of family poverty. 94% of students are Latino, while 45% are English Learners, compared to 32% in the District and 24% in the State. The San Fernando Gardens (the only public housing facility in the San Fernando Valley) is targeted by the Project. According to Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) data, the average annual income is $18,000, more than 45% less than Los Angeles median family income. Pico Union/Westlake has 44.2% of residents below the poverty line according to Census data. 90.3% of children enrolled in eleven area schools are eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Program. 95% are Latino, and over 41% are English Learners. The Project will reach 5,240 families with broadband services. Each family will have at least two members served - a parent and a child enrolled in grades 4-5 or 9-10 in area schools. The total number of potential broadband subscribers the Project will reach is 10,480.

YPI has operated the Family Technology Project for the past eight years. In this time, FTP has brought together public and private partnerships to provide computer literacy training for 750 families who have graduated and received a complete computer system for their home at no cost. Since 2008, the California Emerging Technology Fund has been a primary partner, and has supported FTP to provide broadband access with partners such as Time Warner Cable, Newegg.com, IBM, Bank of America and others. YPI has extensive experience providing technology for low income communities and clients. The agency has been the grantee or lead partner in five Community Technology Center grant awards from the U.S. Department of Education for Los Angeles, San Francisco, Albuquerque, and Washington, D.C.

The annual budget of YPI and its affiliated charter schools is $28 million. YPI has raised over $100 million for youth and family services in Los Angeles since 2001. YPI currently operates programs that include a capacity building program, summer youth employment, poverty initiatives, preschool in eight classrooms, afterschool programs at 56 school sites, two charter middle schools, tutoring and college preparation, adult education and parenting, workforce development for youth and adults, day laborer centers, and technology initiatives. YPI has been awarded U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer’s Excellence in Education Award, as well as Cisco’s Growing With Technology Award.
48 jobs saved or created

Cost: $5,115,287 over the three-year project period.