Executive Summary of Overall Proposal: Hampton University, in a major partnership with the City of Hampton, VA., proposes to significantly expand their Public Computer Center capability to provide need-based education and training to low income, the aged, children and an unemployed and underemployed workforce. The HU Public Computer Center will expand distance learning for workforce education and training in Surry Co., VA, and will expand HU library public broadband computing services. Hampton University will have one location at the Hampton University library and another at the HU Computing Center. While the City of Hampton will establish two and expand four Public Computer Centers as follows: 1. Hampton University Library 130 E. Tyler St. Hampton VA 23668 2. HU Public Computer Center 1026-B Settlers Lndg Hampton VA 23668 3. Main Library 4207 Victoria Blvd Hampton VA 23669 4. Willow Oaks Library 227 Fox Hill Rd Hampton VA 23669 5. Phoebus Library 1 S. Mallory St. Hampton VA 23663 6. Northampton Library 936 Big Bethel Rd Hampton VA 23669 7. West Hampton Community Center 1638 Briarfield Rd Hampton VA 23661 8. Hampton Teen Center 300 Butler Farm Rd Hampton VA 23666 The overarching goal of the proposed Public Computer Centers project will be to spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity. The Project will address three BTOP core objectives, namely: (1) to provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved and underserved areas of Hampton Roads; (2) to provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved and underserved areas of Hampton Roads; and (3) to stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth and job creation. For 141 years, HU has held true to its mission of providing excellent higher education, especially to minorities and disadvantaged individuals. Hence, Hampton is particularly sensitive to and capable of launching the proposed public computer center to accommodate access to broadband services and meet the economic and healthcare education as well as green and energy training needs of these particular population groups. These proposed facilities will provide improved and accessible broadband access for consumers in both underserved and underserved areas to on-line courses in health care delivery, energy, and green short term certificate educational offerings as well as provide support services to children. These offerings will enable the populations served to become gainfully employed. In addition, the training related to green and energy jobs may very well lead to the development of new job opportunities through the establishment of small business ventures by some of the targeted Project participant. These classes will be advertised through the University’s website and the unemployment offices throughout Hampton Roads. The HU public computer centers have been designed to be user friendly and receptive as well as accessible to individuals who are physically challenged. Moreover, the facility has space for children’s computing as many low income, disadvantaged, jobless individuals do not have the funds to pay for
child care while pursuing employment, retooling or expanding their workplace skills. All Hampton City center are welcoming and equipped for persons with disabilities. The City’s four (4) libraries already include equipment for the disabled, such as handicap accessible entrances and exits to the libraries, and tables made specially for easy computer access for handicapped individuals. Both the West Hampton Community Center and the new Hampton Teen Center will include the same handicapped accessible equipment as the libraries. This project has the opportunity to reach 153,000 persons within the city of Hampton, Hampton University and Surry County, VA. Sixty nine percent of the population served is forty five years old and below, the median household income is $46,462.00, the non high school completion rate is fifteen percent and the May 2009 unemployment rate was 7.9%. This project will directly create four new fulltime jobs and at least two part time jobs. More importantly, the workforce training effort will qualify 25 IT personnel, 25 business personnel and 50 health care workers for new jobs. Founded in 1868, as a normal school, HU is a private historically Black institution of higher education located in Hampton, Virginia. It has been successfully acquiring and managing federal grants and funds since the early seventies. Over the years, the University has managed as much as $55 million in Federal funds per annum. For this project the university has indentified Major General (Ret) Wallace Arnold to serve as Principal Investigator and Mrs. Leslies Fuentes, IT Director City of Hampton to lead the city’s effort. Since retiring from the Army, General Arnold has served as Corporate Vice President for an information technology company, Senior Business Development Officer for a Fortune 500 information technology company. As the interim President of a Historically Black University, he was responsible for a forty million dollar operating budget. Further, as the university’s Chief Executive Officer he had the signatory for all federal, state and private grants. In addition, he currently serves as the Hampton University’s Director of Technical Development. Leslie Fuentes was named the Director of Information Technology for the City of Hampton, Virginia in 2008. Fuentes has over 20 years experience managing state and local government information technology. As the Director of Information Technology with the City of Hampton, Fuentes develops, implements, and directs the technology efforts for Hampton City government to include responsibility for information technology infrastructure, networks, communications, telephone systems, web services, office automation systems and PCs, security, disaster recovery, records management, geographic information systems and the portfolio of application systems. Fuentes also advises the City Manager’s staff and city department managers on information technology services and security. This budget proposal for $2,621,652 with an additional twenty-one percent (21%) is an in-kind contribution by Hampton University and the City of Hampton, demonstrates the soundness of the project, the serious commitment of the applicant and a firm belief that it can be sustained and become more important in the future. The budget is well balanced between the initial start-up investments in the first year and maintaining the operational momentum and transition in the second and third years. Every effort has been made to make this a fail-safe project over the next three years and beyond.