Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Linden Free Public Library

Project Title: Public Internet Computer Center for New Library Construction

Project Type: Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary_______________________

Internet access and Word Processing capability are a must for any viable library. Today more than ever, with the economy in its current state, the use of this free computer service has skyrocketed in libraries. Unfortunately, due to budget limitations, we have been unable to upgrade our computer systems for many years, and instead have been forced to keep our current PCs running much longer than we should have. As we are currently building a new library, one of the primary goals has always been to offer state-of-the-art technology to our patrons. Building a new structure but offering the same out-of-date computers would make the project a failure in most people’s eyes.

b) Your overall approach to addressing the need.

Since the building project started, we have attempted to raise money for technology (as well as other things) by various fundraising projects, such as dinners and selling bricks, requesting donations, and submitting as many applicable grants as possible.

c) Area(s) to be served;

The area which will most benefit from the grant is the City of Linden, which has 41,552 residents. Thanks to a reciprocal agreement between libraries, most of the other libraries in Union County can also use the computers in Linden. There are approximately 524,992 residents of the County. The City itself is composed of approximately 74% White and 13% Black or African-American. On an average week our current computers are used by approximately 500 people. As these are current numbers, based on a time when we have very little parking due to construction, we’d expect those statistics to increase once we are in our new building next year. It is also important to note that those numbers are based on our
current out-of-date equipment, so again, once the computers are upgraded, we would expect more of a turnout.

d) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement the project and achieve its intended results.

I myself have been the point person for technology for the library for the past several years. With a few staff members, I have maintained our current equipment for many years. We set up our own equipment, and keep it running. We also have an off-site IT person who can set up the computer network which will obviously be necessary to get this project running.

e) Jobs to be saved or created.

While the new computers may or may not result in new job openings in our library, it will benefit the multitude of people who use our systems for both job searching and resume writing.

f) Overall cost of the proposed project

To purchase twenty Dell workstations for public use, we anticipate needing to spend approximately $22120. As most of the set-up work will be done in-house, we do not anticipate needing to spend any additional money.