Applicant Name: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF MUNCIE
Project Title: Muncie Community Campus of Learners
Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

Needs: The residents of the Muncie Housing Authority have limited access to web-based resources or computer literacy training that can help them deal with day to day needs, as well as become better prepared to compete in today's job market. Income level does not permit them to afford basic Internet access. Proposed Services: The Muncie Housing Authority Campus of Learners Project is designed to bring Internet Access, Web-Based Training and Placement Resources, and opportunities for residents to improve their computer and technology skills. The project entails several different services to be delivered to residents: Training: - Classroom based instruction at selected training centers - Online courses that residents may take and complete at their own pace - Internships with Help Desk staff for those wanting to develop skills in supporting computer systems, networks, and basic computer operations. Broadband Internet and Public Computer Access: - Each Public Housing property would get a new Public Computer Center equipped with computers, printers, and staffed by Help Desk assistants with broadband Internet availability for all residents. - Access to content designed for residents of the Muncie Housing Authority which would allow better flow of information to and from residents. Computer Systems: - 5-unit computer 'labs' with printers at each location, which would allow residents to use programs, work together with others, and create printed material such as resumes, flyers, and other materials. - Loaner computers that can be checked out by residents as needed that include wireless cards set up for the Mesh Network at their residence. Counseling, Training, and Support: - On Site Help Desk staff who will help residents use the web and PC's effectively and solve any technical issues. - Trainers who will lead classroom instruction for residents who wish to complete a series of Computer Skills classes and other more advanced programs. - Counselors who will meet and work with residents seeking to improve their marketability help them work on creating an effective resume and cover letter, pursue education or job-training programs that will help them advance professionally, and work on communication and interview skills. Project Reach and Demographics: The project will target Muncie Housing Authority residences in the Enterprise Zone. Potential users would include roughly 3,000-3,600 full-time residents of these Public Housing units, as well as city residents willing to pay fees for classroom instruction, computer assistance, and wireless broadband access. Muncie Housing Authority Population Demographics: Median Household Income 2007 $20,119 Persons Living Below Poverty Level, 2007 24.9% Unemployment Rate 2007 11.6% Unemployment Rate 2008 15.5% 18 and Over with at least High School Diploma 70.6% Qualifications of Applicants: The Muncie Housing Authority has an excellent track record of turning around distressed properties in Muncie and managing complex rebuilding projects in the city's core. Their success at creating the new Millennium Place Development and Price Hall Neighborhood Network facility speaks to their commitment to their Public
Housing clients and project management expertise. The strategic partners with Muncie Housing Authority on this project include: Muncie Public Library WorkOne Ball State University United Way of Delaware County Muncie Community Schools City of Muncie Ivy Tech Community College AT&T Commercial Broadband Cisco Systems with Coleman Technologies GEA Architects The FociS Group/The Reserves Network Open Door Muncie Boys and Girls Club Muncie YMCA The Compass Muncie REACH Center Muncie Life Stream Services of Muncie Weed and Seed Muncie Michelle Shadrake, Sungard Higher Education Huffer Memorial Childrens Center Open Door Ball Memorial Hospital Delaware County Chamber of Commerce Muncie Home Center Muncie Job Impact of Project: We expect that the project will immediately require 8-16 full-time staff divided between Training, Administration and Placement/Counseling. These hires are to be recruited from the resident population and trained as needed. Over time, the project should generate additional employment opportunities in the community for better-prepared residents, as well as a variety of home-based start-ups and work-study hires. We hope to help break the cycle of poverty in these families and reduce their need for public assistance. Estimated Cost of Project: This application hopes to raise 70% of approximately $ 4.4 Million to proceed with this project over 3 years. The breakdown would be: Personnel - Training, Administration and Support $ 1,925,000 Equipment - PC,s, Network, Wireless $ 1,235,000 Contract Support and Installation Labor $ 1,100,000 Broadband Cost, 3 years, AT&T $ 154,000 Estimated In Kind Support/Fees/Matching Funds ($ 1,370,000)