This grant benefits 8,354 of Boston's most vulnerable with 3 programs providing in-depth broadband life-relevance training in schools, community anchors, and senior housing, as well as digital job acquisition skills for out of work adults, with computer distribution to all. Technology Goes Home (TGH) is an 11 year old school-based, family broadband education program, recognized by the FCC's National Broadband Plan Staff for excellence in adoption programming. TGH will expand to train many more in its unique life-relevance curriculum by: providing 15 hours of training and netbooks to 5800 students and parents, doubling the current school-based TGH enrollment and extend into the newly BTOP funded PCCs and TSN centers to train staff to teach an additional 1500 with netbooks for all graduates.

Connected Living (CL) is an established senior housing based broadband life-relevance program. CL will work directly in 3 Boston Housing Authority (BHA) senior communities to achieve high rates of adoption and sustained use by 1:1 instruction, centered on senior's interests, empowering connections with family, friends, service providers and enhancing independence, socialization and cognitive abilities. On Line Learning Readiness (OLLR) follows Microsoft's ICT Curriculum Roadmap and will enroll 800 out-of work adults in in-depth digital workplace skills training at community anchors that already host tech programs. All 3 programs provide the critical components for sustainable adoption: computer skills, life-relevance education and computers. Through 'BPS Connect,' Boston is developing a public/private partnership to deliver the final necessary component of sustainable adoption: affordable home connections. With particular focus on school aged youth, BPS Connect will also work to identify affordable options for all Boston's low income residents. The city is in discussion with incumbent providers as well as TowerStream who plans a 2nd Round BTOP infrastructure grant to provide 4G wireless in Boston for $8.95/month. This would be an affordable option for Boston’s most vulnerable, where commercial rates are over 4 times this cost. Boston also is pursuing Google Network to link our most vulnerable and community anchors. Area served/demographics/estimated number of broadband subscribers: TGH, CL and OLLR will serve the majority-minority lowest income areas which have low (30%) broadband adoption. Median household income is at or below Boston's median of $46,362 which is already lower than MA and US medians of $61,785 and $50,007. In this high cost city, such low household incomes indicate true financial distress. These neighborhoods include the families/seniors/disabled tenants in 11,000 units of public housing where median income is $9,606. 74% of Boston schoolchildren qualified for free or reduced price school meals in 2008-an increase from 71% in 2007. Between 2005 and 2007, 21% of Boston children lived in poverty compared to 10% statewide and 42% live in high-poverty neighborhoods compared to 13.8% for MA TGH will train 5800 school-based children and parents, enable training for 1500 at the PCCs and TSN centers for a total of 7300 new
broadband users. 800 out of work adults will participate in the OLLR program and 396 seniors will be in CL, resulting in 8354 newly trained broadband users. Qualifications: TGH has operated for 11 years as a partnership of the Boston Public Schools and a nonprofit. TGH is led by the public school principal who pioneered the leading TGH school-based program, winning the 2008 Verizon Tech Savvy 'best in the nation' award for innovative use of technology in education and cited by the FCC National Broadband Plan Staff as exemplary of excellent broadband adoption programming. MyWayVillage has offered the CL program in a variety of senior settings in several states for over 4 yrs. OLLR is offered by Timothy Smith Network (TSN) whose 31 community anchor agencies have provided technology training and access in one of the lowest income, highest unemployment neighborhoods for 12 yrs. Jobs Created/cost: Over 500 part time teachers and educators will be employed and 9 fulltime managers. OLLR will enroll 800 and the majority of graduates will become employed. Total cost for 3 programs is $6,293,648 offset by a 31.48% cash match of $1,981,972 for a total grant request of $4,312,476. TGH and CL a) Problem/Need: Low income schoolchildren and their families, adults, and seniors lack affordable access to the hardware, Internet connections, and the skills and knowledge of broadband's life-relevance to maximize the use of technology. These deficits impact education, job opportunities, good health care and more. Broadband adoption among the most vulnerable cannot occur until these deficits are effectively addressed. TGH and CL do this. TGH operates in 47 middle and high schools, providing training in 21st century skills to students and parents, giving the knowledge and hardware needed for sustainable adoption and digital equal opportunity. Current funding greatly constrains the number of families served and, in most schools, family graduates receive only refurbished desktops. With grant funding, TGH will reach many more families of Boston's neediest schoolchildren, will expand into BTOP funded PCCs and TSN centers to reach adults and seniors, providing life relevance training and a netbook. Boston's public housing seniors live in 'digital isolation.' This deprives seniors of the easy connection to family, friends and service providers. Internet access and use helps seniors learn new physical, cognitive and social skills associated with maintaining independence and brain health. TGH innovates by providing hardware, training in how to use integrated hardware and web applications, and the life-relevance of connection. TGH 2.0 structures skill development and access in an easy-to-use framework called 'live, learn, earn, work and play online'. TGH programs will operate on the TGH 2.0 model which focuses on broadband empowerment skills, mobile netbooks instead of refurbished desktops, and Internet-based applications. TGH innovates by: 1) Training Content & Format: TGH curriculum, training, and netbooks are built around single-sign on access to 'best in class' broadband content and applications. From accessing city services (food, fuel, housing) to GED prep courses and online bill payment, TGH students and families come to value the life-relevance, life-improvement potential of broadband access. CL gives seniors tailored training to conform to their interests, providing easy access to on-line resources with computers and software age-suitable. CL uses 1:1 as well as group sessions with personal ambassadors to encourage learning. 2) Structural Design: By building according to technology sector's most advanced thinking, TGH is prepared for evolutionary changes over the next 5 years and has significantly reduced per seat costs in the last two years, enabling expanded access and sustainability. CL uses on-line tools, personal ambassadors and group sessions in the senior community to impart learning. 3) Access & Support: TGH: Mobile, connected hardware coupled with powerful, remote location-based services and rich media, assuring participants get real-time information, tools
and resources wherever they are. CL provides large screen computers for seniors in their units, simple software with ongoing personal support. 4) Collaboration: TGH and CL connect participants with community anchors who service and support program participants. On Line Learning Readiness (OLLR) a. Problem/Need: Out of work adults need digital literacy skills for 21st century jobs. Microsoft VP Passman noted: "Technological fluency is essential to develop careers and achieve success in virtually every sector of the economy, from health care and construction to agriculture and manufacturing." Companies today rely on e-communications and train employees through e-learning. Many of Boston's most vulnerable desire IT careers but lack technical skills, are ignorant of career options and how to prepare for them. Many have never tried or succeeded in e-learning environments. With high unemployment and jobs requiring on line capabilities, OLLR responds. b. Innovative approach: OLLR will train 800 out of work adults in digital workforce skills using e-learning materials. Skills needed for online learning overlap those employers are seeking: basic technical competencies, self-directedness, problem solving, individual/team work skills, effective online communication, time management, reading for comprehension. OLLR's 12-week, 20 hour/week program builds on the capacity of the TSN anchors to provide computer and workforce development training with a netbook for at-home use and assistance in securing jobs in Boston's digital employment environment.