Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES

Project Title: Sustainable Broadband Serving Colville Confederated Tribes and NE Washington

Project Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

_______________________ Executive Summary __________________________

In a broadband isolated rural community that suffers from chronic unemployment and poverty, far removed from population and market centers, few in the community own computers or know how to access resources through broadband connectivity. Lack of broadband internet throughout the area contributes to propagation of the cycles of poverty; parents lack jobs skills to compete in highly competitive job markets, students on far below parity with off reservation populations for access to online education and research resources, the community lacks models for how to take advantage of tools that are considered essential and common place in areas supported by broadband internet. The net effect is that those without job skills and training remain ineligible for the jobs that would allow them to become self sufficient and out of poverty. 27 percent of the residence in the target service area on dependent on services provided by the Tribe to survive, not because they lack motivation or desire to become self supporting but because they are do not have access to the basic resources available to most US citizens. Statutory goals: The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) is a community of 2693 households in a region of 1.4 million acres with 3.6 residents per square mile, which lacks terrestrial broadband. CCTs sustainable adoption plan meets statutory goals to increase use of broadband to meet an unconnected community's economic and employment recession. Problem: In a broadband isolated rural community that suffers from chronic unemployment, 65%, and poverty, over 25%, few in the community own computers or know what resources are available through broadband connectivity. Solution: Implement a strategy to help individuals in public computer centers to learn to become proficient with internet-based resources for job search and entrepreneurial service. A technology skilled workforce will bring business investments to the region and prepare workers to be job-ready. Familiarity with computers will increase quicker sign-up for residential broadband service. The Project will deploy a 100 member Technology Corps to participate in 3 categories of activities: 1) help the community with digital literacy programs on how to use computers, programs and applications; 2) learn higher skill sets of technology application for their own development; and, 3) participate in a cultural preservation documentary project to capture the Tribes' cultural history, art and language. Furthermore, the Technology Corps will be able to provide both on-site technical assistance and remote desktop assistance to private sector end users, which is currently not available in remote areas of the Colville Indian Reservation and surrounding communities. Emergency Roadside Public Safety Responder Network: in consultation with public safety officials, the project will deploy roadside emergency boxes with wifi broadband data access for motorist assistance and doubling for public safety data use. Technology-based adoption devices: The project will deploy state-of-the-art technologies that will help tribal members use tools to learn and to teach with. These technologies include smart boards,
distance learning, and video-conferencing equipment to help teaching, learning, and doing business (vocational and educational curriculum). Video production equipment for use by Technology Corps and others to help do cultural preservation documentaries will aid in learning and prepare technicians for related jobs. Finally, electronic digital signs throughout the community in public places and some commercial establishments will bring public service announcements and information to community members. Partnerships: CCT will partner with the CCT community centers, senior centers, Headstart program, libraries, local public schools and local business groups in the community to help plan and coordinate the broadband sustainable program. Sustainability: The Tribe has created the Colville Confederated Tribes Network (CCTNet) that will sustain the commercial open access network, be self-sustaining, but can support the Sustainable broadband efforts by hiring staff to assist with managing, maintaining, and teaching applications in the sustainable adoption plan. Jobs created: the Tribe will create 20 jobs from CCTNetw staffing, 5 jobs from Public Computer Laboratory directorships, 2 jobs from Technology Corps staffing. In addition, by training 100 youth Technology Corps volunteers to use, teach, learn and apply technology applications, 500 youth in five years will have skills that will help them in the future job market. Also, an estimated 1000 community residents annually will be taking digital training courses and using public computers to attain jobs, stimulate entrepreneurial services, sell goods, and meet market partners to expand their market reach and personal vocational limits Qualifications: the CCT Network staff will be experienced telecom industry managers. CCT Net and the Tribe's IT Department (with 32 employees) will financially and technically support the SBA project and the PCC project. Costs: Overall Budget: *Digital Literacy Program: $400,000 *Technology Corps: $259,000 *Public Safety Emergency boxes: $707,365 *Digital Signage: $78,200 *multi-media classroom equipment: $364,180 *Public Safety Video: $281,175 *Video Production Equipment: $58,800

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ Total: $2,149,440 Tribal 20% match: $429,888 This project can be replicated by other Indian tribes in remote rural areas.