Minority Access, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, proposes to establish in its newly renovated building, especially designed to serve as a community center, a Public Computer Center. The Center's primary objective is to expand broadband services to an underserved area, currently depressed, but an area in the incipient stages of revitalization. The center will not only address computer literacy needs, it will also address some unique community problems, a computer program to reorient selected students suspended from school, assist the unemployed in on-line job searches, improve computer literacy of seniors and train prospective computer technicians. To help suspended students adjust, we shall use an innovative computer program successfully used by Minority Access to help young people live healthy, reduced risk lives. Upon approval of our proposal, we would immediately order equipment and employ staff who would undergo training and be available to install equipment in the Center, meet with education officials, parents and community groups and publicize the center. We would expect completion of installation, training and orientation by January 31, 2011. The Center would be in full operation by February 2011. We shall work closely with appropriate personnel in the Prince George’s County School System, with parents as well as with professional at the local colleges and universities. Minority Access is fortunate to have here, now, literally in its midst readily available an abundance of the rare, relevant talent essential to assure successful implementation with innovations of the Minority Access Public Computer Center. Dr. Samuel L. Myers, a Harvard PhD, veteran educator, and former college president, will assure successful implementation of this innovative concept. Dr. Wilbert Greenfield, a nationally renowned scientist and former college president, is also available (with limitation) to support this effort. Dr. Prezell Robinson, once ranked as one of the 100 most effective college presidents in the United States, will cooperate. Mrs. Michelle Lewis, a former Editor-in-Chief of the nationally distributed Black Excellence Magazine and currently President of the PTA of a local school, will provide oversight as a Board Member of Minority Access. Dr. Wilma Jean Roscoe, an eminent community leader who for thirty years was one of the top two leaders of the association of historically black colleges, has pledged her support for this activity. All of these rich, rare relevant resources are immediately available to support this project. Minority Access has in place a cadre of seasoned and experienced professionals who can guarantee, based on past performance, successful implementation of this project. Ms. Andrea D. Mickle has been for more than ten yeas a seasoned and successful President of Minority Access. She has, as President of Minority Access, overseen the implementation of creative and innovative programs for the Departments of Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Defense, NASA, the US Coast Guard, and others. She will provide the type of leadership to this project
that based upon her past track record, virtually guarantees, a priori, future success. Minority Access has an enviable track record of success in administering innovative and successful projects for numerous Federal agencies. Minority Access has placed over a thousand high performing college students from diverse backgrounds as interns in many Federal agencies. We successfully recruited minority students for the US Coast Guard to assist them in including more minority students in their cadet corps without compromising its high academic standards. NASA tapped Minority Access to implement a multimillion project--that we successfully implemented with rave reviews--to operate an 18 wheel trailer to travel thousands of miles across continental United States to share in seminars in the trailer with high school teachers, some of the latest research findings learned from space exploration. NASA highly lauded our success. Our Finance Officer, Evelyn Bernard, an MBA, who has meticulously monitored our finances and has led us to clean, exception free audits for twelve years, will assure appropriate, authorized and accounting of the use of funds. We have in house, the rare technical talent essential to successful implementation of this specialized project. Minority Access is fortunate to have on site and on our staff an experienced, highly skilled computer expert, Celes Jackson, who will be assigned to this project. In addition, we know of experts in training computer technicians who could be retained as instructors. She not only has the familiarity with the technical details of broadband technology and the ability to resolve expeditiously the myriad of technical problems that one inevitably encounters while on line, she has the calm compassionate disposition that minimize the frustrations the novice tends to have in using this resources. The implementation of the Minority Access Public Computer Center would create jobs for the staff required to operate the center and would assist other job seekers to find jobs. We seek funding of $1,491,703 to be matched with thirty(30) per cent from Minority Access.