Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DIST.

**Project Title:** The LAUSD Communities Broadband Expansion Project

**Project Type:** Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary _________________________

The Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD's) goal for this project is to help meet health, education, public safety and job skill requirements of a large, diverse and socioeconomically challenged population in a metropolitan area with a 12.4% unemployment rate, within a state with a massive budget deficit. Technology can assist with solutions to many of these needs, but in a community where 75% of students require Federal food assistance, broadband access is an unaffordable luxury. The LAUSD provides expansive services to 92 cities and communities throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. Working with a multitude of partner service agencies (see attached list), LAUSD seeks to expand and enhance broadband access to 1101 community anchor sites to facilitate meeting the education, and health and human needs of a vast underserved population. Working with partner service agencies, LAUSD provides food, health, education, job training, workforce preparation, and public safety services at community anchor sites for an enormous underserved community by: 'Meeting the nutritional needs of over 600,000 students each day, the majority of whom require Federal food assistance 'Providing health services to thousands of children, the elderly and others through 28 existing health clinics, with partners such as Little Company of Mary Hospital in Torrance, the Allergy and Asthma Foundation, and LA County/USC Medical Center 'In partnership with the American Red Cross, sheltering citizens in need during fires, floods, mudslides and earthquakes that threaten the Los Angeles Basin. The American Red Cross also works with LAUSD to shelter citizens after civil events such as apartment shootings or condemnation proceedings 'Educating not only over 600,000 children, but providing work-force preparation and job training for over 400,000 adults, including providing English language and citizenship classes Technology can assist with many of these services, but not without broadband access to deliver services. The LAUSD seeks BTOP funding to complete a Metropolitan Area Network; the Middle Mile infrastructure that will bring expanded Broadband usage to 1101 sites that currently serve a vast community in need. This increase in broadband access needs will help expand essential education, health, job skills, and public safety services needed desperately needed by the underserved members of our service area. Our 92 cities and communities (see attached list) are located in a number of state and Federal enterprise zones encompassed within the 710 square miles of LAUSD, including 49,050 businesses and 848,797 residences. Just prior to the 2008/2009 recession, a 2007 U.S. Census Bureau American Community survey showed 37% percent of the county's households in our communities were living below the self-sufficiency standard. As of February 23, 2010, the California Employment Development Department showed the unemployment rate for Los Angeles to be among the highest in the nation at 12.4%. Statistics show our community's families with children fare worse; 75% qualify for the Federal free and reduced meal program, indicating even greater need for assistance. Enhanced
broadband technology will provide LAUSD with the ability to provide broader services to constituents with less funding. For example, with health partners including Kaiser Permanente and the County of Los Angeles' Children's Health Outreach Initiative, LAUSD will be able to leverage technology to provide enhanced assistance for community members to access a variety of health and social service programs, including health service programs such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Kaiser Child Health Plans, and the Children's Health and Disability Program. The LAUSD will also leverage broadband technology to assist with community access to social programs including, but not limited to Food Stamps, CalWorks, and the Woman, Infants, Children Nutrition Program etc. In addition to providing educational services to over 600,000 students, increasing and expanding broadband access will enhance the ability to provide advanced education and job training, job search services and workforce development opportunities for over 400,000 immigrants, poor, jobless, under-educated, English-language challenged, and other disadvantaged adults. Over 400 of LAUSD's 1101 community anchor sites have academic and career technical education programs specifically designed for preparing community members for entry level employment and post-secondary training. High speed access will allow LAUSD and its partners to enhance and expand the Career Technical Education Program, English as a Second Language and Citizenship Programs, and Adult Education as well as job search services through links to the California Employment Development Department and local work source centers. These services include on-line learning and video conferencing for instruction and job training. A focused partnership with the Youth Policy Institute provides job and career development in the health field, and partnerships with the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, and Local Union 36 and 220 will facilitate joint apprenticeship training. A partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will enhance training and work experience capabilities, and partnerships with Centro Latino for Literacy and the Literacy Network for Jewish Vocational Services addressing language and literacy needs will be enhanced. LAUSD sites also serve as community shelters in times of natural disaster and emergencies. The project will enhance site access to the LAUSD WebEOC (Web Emergency Operations Center), allowing LAUSD to share status and communicate with other local, state, and Federal agencies, and the American Red Cross (ARC). Increased broadband access will allow the ARC to access critical information and support victims. The ARC, in partnership with LAUSD opens, on average, one emergency shelter each month to serve our community members in dire need. Enhanced broadband access will allow the Red Cross to use applications that help to account for and reunite families, allow individuals to communicate with family members online, and seek other health and social service assistance. This project will increase aggregate Internet bandwidth for all 1101 community anchor sites from 1.3 Gbps to 10 Gbps. The Middle Mile Core linking these 1101 sites via leased fiber circling the area with OC-12 (620 Mbps) service will be increased to 10 Gbps. These 1101 community anchor sites include early education centers, special education centers, alternative work centers, community adult, regional occupation centers, regional occupational programs, skill centers, and elementary, middle, and senior high schools. The project's last mile scope also includes enhancing broadband access for 292 anchor sites: 43 of these will receive fiber based broadband, increasing speeds from 1.5 Mbps to 10 Mbps or greater, and the includes 151 of these sites which will receive upgraded LAN and Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) networks with Gigabit optical fiber backbones, 10/100/1000 Mbps copper user outlets, and wireless access speeds of up to 300Mb/s. In addition, all 292 will receive video conferencing equipment. Additional sites will receive advanced video conferencing capabilities to support services delivery. Video
conferencing is also an essential component of LAUSD's project plans to enhance services to our community. For example, approximately 20% of all teenage populations suffer from some psychological stressors. The ability for students and parents to discuss these issues with trained adult service without having to travel expands the services of the limited psychologists and social services personnel available to service the community. Video Conferencing opens up additional opportunities allows students to participate in online community college classes, and remote classes that they otherwise would not be able to take. It also allows parents and adult students to go to school without spending hours on the road, traveling to sites outside of their communities. The LAUSD IT Capital Program Group will manage this project; this professional management group has completed over 1400 Local bond and Federal E-rate funded IT projects with a budget of $726 million dollars. BTOP project funds will be used to complete middle and last mile projects to remaining sites that could not be completed due to lack of funds. The project budget is $143,057,769, the LAUSD will provide a 30% match of $42,917,331. LAUSD estimates 1555 direct and indirect jobs will be created or saved. Significant portions of the project are 'shovel ready'; with contracts awarded but lack complete funding due to lack of Federal E-rate dollars. These contracts can be executed immediately upon award of this grant.