Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: TAMPA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Project Title: AccessALL Tampa

Project Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

_______________________Executive Summary_______________________

The Tampa Housing Authority, along with 15 partner organizations, and support from Senator Bill Nelson, Congresswoman Kathy Castor and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio, has created AccessALL Tampa, a project that creates technologically smart communities within 23 public housing communities (3,430 housing units / more than 7,000 residents) while creating a minimum of 12 directs jobs and increasing the employability of hundreds of residents. This population represents a vulnerable population. This project meets the 30% match threshold, with 8% of the match in cash. AccessALL Tampa will increase, and maintain, sustainable subscription rates for broadband services in public housing; implement a Pilot Initiative where computers are installed as appliances in 513 households within self-sufficiency communities, deliver comprehensive computer and digital literacy training to a minimum of 1,445 subscribers; implement a subsidized computer purchase initiative for 1,000 subscribers; provide access to another 1,000 computers at $125 each; and develop a resident services website focusing on employment, education, job training and health care initiatives. Tampa Housing Authority is partnering with Bright House Networks who has guaranteed a 59% cost reduction from the monthly market rate for a five (5) year period. This discount, along with the comprehensive job training and education initiative (provided in-kind), as well as the computer and digital literacy initiative, creates the ability for residents to sustain the service after the 3-year period. The comprehensive needs of very low and low income vulnerable populations require that this broadband initiative be coupled with comprehensive self sufficiency efforts. There are several components to this project: 1. Install modems and ‘turn on’ Broadband access to 3,340 units 2. Install 513 computers in the Technologically Smart Communities (Pilot Program) 3. Conduct Outreach and Awareness Initiative 4. Implement Training for a minimum of 1,445 residents - A+1 Certification - Web 101 - (6 hour class, each class will include a total of 15 residents at a time) - Basic Computing & Internet (30 hours of training, 15 weeks, 15 per class) - Computer Training (20 hour class) - Online Computer Curriculum for youth and teens (self paced) 5. Low Cost Computer Purchase 6. Job Creation 12 jobs 7. Comprehensive Education, Employment, Training and Supportive Services Initiatives 8. This program component includes extensive job training, job search, computer training,
online GED, ESOL classes, life skills, health care, child care (so that residents can participate in job training, employment and educational activities) and access to a variety of facilities. With a total of 15 partner organizations, a full scope of services will be offered. 8. AccessALL Tampa Website A host of information will be made available through this website. Partner agencies will be involved in its development. Information available will include: - Community News, Alerts and Services (information regarding rent, lease recertification, hurricane evacuation plans, community activities, maintenance work orders, scheduling of community facilities, Resident Council meetings and contact information, Food Stamps, Social Security, bus schedules, seminars, a centralized community calendar and domestic violence information.) - Education (adult Education, GED, connection to public online tutorials, ESOL, computer training, online classes, public school system bus schedules) - Health Care (connection to community health clinic activities, health fairs, Medicaid, Medicare, nutrition, weight management, anger management, depression, life skills and a variety of health and wellness education) - Employment, Job Training and Apprenticeship (overview of programs, eligibility determination, application, scheduling, announcements, online job training, job search, job postings, etc) - Youth Activities (community activities, registration processes, schedules, child care activities) - Financial (access to credit repair classes/information, credit reports, banking) Community Businesses (community information, business opportunities) This truly represents an innovative cutting edge initiative targeting the poorest of the poor, while meeting the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program goals and objectives. This approach is innovative because: The Tampa Housing Authority is one of the first public housing authorities to implement the vision of technologically smart communities in public housing and establish broadband as an amenity 15 community organizations (schools, health care organizations, nonprofit organizations, government departments, and businesses) have come together to implement this program This initiative will significantly enhance the ability of public housing residents to increase education and employment levels by bridging the digital divide The approach leverages stimulus dollars and provides a cash match The Tampa Housing Authority is requesting $3,383,608 over the 3-year period. This represents a $986 investment per family, to provide long-term sustainable broadband service, comprehensive computer and digital literacy training, create 12 jobs, and provide a comprehensive program that will allow residents to improve their financial stability. The long term impact is certainly deserving of a $986 investment per family. In addition, the program is more than 100% leveraged with the critical services necessary to help obtain sustainability. This program has a program match of $4,089,371 provided by 16 organizations (Tampa Housing and its partner organizations).