The Central Fall Housing Authority (CFHA) will provide its constituents access to computers, basic computer use classes, and advanced level classes. Cognizant that the present off-site computer rooms are inadequate to meet the computer training needs of a growing constituency. The current computer lab houses obsolete computers that are unable to sustain and run new software. A grant from BTOP will allow the CFHA the ability to upgrade its present computers and software. Thus providing the agency the ability to create a state-of-the-art computer lab. (While useful for basic skills training, the current computers are old and are not Windows 7 compatible. New educational software will be needed for all age groups). The proposed new computer lab will include 12 new computers for each of our two sites (24 computers in total), three new printers, and educational software. Participants in all programs as well as residents of Central Falls and Pawtucket will be offered classes and general access to the computers. It is important that our younger constituents develop computer literacy skills at an early age so that as adults, they too will be ready to enter a technologically charged workforce. The lab will be open to all participants for general use (online job searches, resume writing, practicing basic skills etc.) during business hours 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday & Friday and 8:30am to 3:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (to accommodate the Reading Buddies Club). CFHA staff will be available to assist participants and will receive training as needed. Computer skills such as keyboarding, the internet as a job search tool, Excel, and Power Point will be incorporated into Career Development classes (resume writing, interview skills, career exploration) two evenings per week. Computer skills and career exploration are combined in one series to provide more intensive computer skills training - students will be using their newly learned computer skills to learn resume writing, interviewing, and job readiness skills. The number of classes will increase with rise in demand. More advanced classes will be offered as participants become more adept computer users. CFHA will contract an outside agency/individual in an effort to provide a class instructor who will also provide staff training as needed. The Reading Buddies Club will have access to the lab during Club hours, 3:00pm to 5:30pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday throughout the school year. New educational software will be purchased to facilitate learning. Club staff - a teacher and an assistant teacher - will supervise computer use. Youth Employment Program (YEP) participants will have access to the lab four hours each Friday throughout the summer. They will attend Career Development classes similar to those offered evenings. They may also access the computers for general use. YEP staff will supervise computer use when classes are not in session. Measures of Success: The project's success will be defined by the degree to which its goal and objectives are met: 1. All FSS and CFHA participants are computer literate upon graduation. Measure: Pre & post-tests will be administered upon enrollment and graduation respectively. 2. All constituents have easy access to
computers. Measure: A sign-in sheet will be utilized to track computer use. 3. Computers are incorporated into more program activities. Measure: Computer related activities will be documented through monthly reports to the Board of Directors. 4. More computer classes (both entry-level and advanced).