Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: YOUTH POLICY INSTITUTE INC

Project Title: YPI Public Computer Centers Program

Project Type: Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

The Youth Policy Institute (YPI) Public Computer Centers program will bring expanded broadband access to residents of Los Angeles in the San Fernando Valley, Central Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, and South Los Angeles through 80 Public Computer Centers. YPI currently operates or partners with these sites for existing preschool, afterschool, computer literacy, full-service community schools, charter schools, job training, and adult education services. YPI will create public computer centers at these locations to provide access to technology not available for residents who lack broadband or computers in the home. Low-income and predominantly Latino residents in these communities lack the financial resources for broadband access and computers. Many residents lack even telephone lines required for dial-up services. Online program resources will include materials and resources that are part of the LA ParentSmart and Family Technology Project Portal websites YPI has created with funding from the California Emerging Technology Fund and the City of Los Angeles. These offer extensive community and program resources for low-income families, and will go live on June 30, 2010. The portals adapt YPI’s afterschool, adult education and job training program curricula for online use, while also providing community information regarding public safety, health resources, child care, transportation and other issues of paramount concern to low-income families. The essential problem tackled by the proposed Centers is that the majority of families in the targeted communities lack access to broadband technology and computer technology. The Public Computer Centers will provide broadband education and technology to help them access resources such as LAParentSmart and the FTP Portal. Enrolled families at the Centers will receive user names and passwords to access broadband content offered online, as well as training sessions at the Centers on how to best use these resources. Public Computer Centers merge hands-on technology offered at no cost at convenient locations in the community (such as at the local public school) with practical instruction, as well as providing access to exciting ways to utilize computers and broadband access. YPI Public Computer Centers seek to validate strong research that demonstrates the importance of integrating technology with useful information of relevance to the target low income families. Outcomes for the Centers will include serving 29,490 clients at all 80 Centers each week. Each Center will install swipe-card technology to track the use of Center services on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. The annual budget of YPI and its affiliated charter schools is $34 million. YPI has raised over $120 million for youth and family services in Los Angeles since 2001. YPI currently operates programs that include extensive Recovery Act workforce development programs ($6 million in past six months to train 1,200 clients in health and education careers), summer youth employment, poverty initiatives, preschool, afterschool programs at 56 school sites, two charter schools, tutoring and college preparation, adult education and parenting, day laborer centers, and technology initiatives. YPI has been
awarded U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer’s Excellence in Education Award, as well as Cisco’s Growing With Technology Award. YPI is funded by the National Council of La Raza through Recovery Act funds that support four full time AmeriCorps members to work with low-income residents to provide job training workshops. These members will work with clients at the Centers to help them with computer literacy classes, job search strategies and soft skills training. YPI has current state and federal funding from the California Department of Education, California Employment Development Department, the Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for programming that will be integrated with broadband education and use. YPI was the grantee or lead partner in five Community Technology Center grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Albuquerque, and Washington, D.C. YPI received back-to-back Community Technology Center grant awards in 2002 and 2003 to open and expand a community technology center in Pacoima. YPI has successfully operated the Family Technology Project (FTP) since 2001. This groundbreaking partnership has provided computer literacy and complete home computer systems with internet access for 750 families free of charge. Overall cost, including federal and matching funds- $7,015,290 Job years to be created- 81 direct job years, 12 indirect job yrs, and 22 induced.