

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Littleton Housing Authority

**Project Title:** Littleton Computer Help Centers

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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This grant proposal has been written to address the need in our community of expanding broadband access to the elderly/disabled and low income families served by the Littleton Housing Authority (LHA). These vulnerable populations are consistent with the people we serve with subsidized housing, and it is LHA's mission to help provide our residents with services that will improve their quality of life and thus, the quality of life in our community. The lack of broadband access within these populations limits access to the wealth of information and services that are available to broadband users. We see this as a limitation that prevents adequate access to healthcare, job opportunities and general knowledge of the world around them. We wish to address this need by providing public computer centers that will be available to our residents and eventually other low income families in our community with services that will seek to increase their knowledge of computers, improve job readiness, and increase access to information.

Our approach is to fund four separate computer labs, one for each of our senior housing centers and an additional one for use by our families and others in the community. Each of the labs will have computer workstations and printers available for use. Classes on basic computer skills will be taught at each of the labs and individualized assistance will be available by paid staff who are experienced in computer skills. Supplies and equipment for the labs will be provided for use by the clients. In the senior/disabled labs, student instructors will provide question and answer sessions for the residents. There will be three separate labs serving the three senior facilities that are operated by LHA.

The fourth computer lab will also be located within one of our senior/disabled buildings but will have a separate location for use by those living in the community. This lab will be staffed with computer instructors and a case manager provided to increase the computer and job skills for the clients. The case manager will teach job skills classes and be available evening hours to provide referrals and vocational assistance to low income families. In the second and third years of the grant, English as a Second Language classes will be taught in the family computer lab.

In the first year, the labs will be open only to residents of the Housing Authority properties or those with Section 8 program vouchers. For the family lab, this consists of 700 individuals, (either adults or school-aged children) who would be eligible for our services. They are all in the low or moderate income brackets and, among the public housing families, there is a relatively high rate of unemployment of approximately 38%. We believe that we can serve 300 of these individuals a year in our family computer lab. In the senior/disabled labs, we currently have one lab operational which serves approximately 30 people. We have a total of 340 adults in our senior facilities, and access to computers is currently only available to 132 of them. The new computer labs will provide access to all 340 and we expect to serve at least 100 of them in the first year.

In the second and third years of the family lab, we will open access to other low income families in the community. These adults will be unemployed and registered for income through assistance programs. From a projected unemployment rate of 100%, we expect to reduce this rate by 25% through the use of our case management and job training services.

The Littleton Housing Authority has a long history of successfully managing federal funds for the assistance of those needy in our community. Most of our funding is from the federal government and we have an exceptional record of service to our residents. Our management team have worked consistently and diligently to make sure our programs succeed.

The Housing Authority has chosen to partner with two non-profit organizations who also have many years of experience in managing grant income. Stride is a self-sufficiency agency with a nearly 75% success rate in increasing income and productivity among their clients. The Binning Family Foundation is also very successful in helping the youth it sponsors to become productive members of our society through use of their computer training.

By involving the Arapahoe Community College in our grant, we assure that the English as a Second Language (ESL) classes being offered will be high in quality. All of our staff will be experienced and highly qualified in their areas of expertise. One full-time position and four part-time positions will be created as a result of this grant. Two of the part-time instructors will be students served by the Binning Family Foundation. One of the part-time employees will be recommended by Arapahoe Community College and hired on a stipend. Littleton Housing Authority will hire computer instructor and case manager, who will be hired in conjunction with Stride. Both of these employees will be integral to the success of the program. Consulting by Stride and the Binning Family Foundation will also be a part of the grant provided by match from these agencies. The Project Coordinator will be an employee of the Housing Authority who will use 15% of her time to oversee the project.

The overall cost of the entire program over the three year grant period is projected to be \$351,690. Of this amount, we are able to contribute a 21.2% match for a total of \$74,430. Thus, the amount we are requesting to be funded by the BTOP grant is \$277,260.