Applicant Name: OREGON COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Project Title: Central Oregon Coast Public Computer Centers

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

The Central Oregon Coast Public Computers Centers project services area is Lincoln County, Oregon. Lincoln County covers an area of 979 square miles on the central Oregon coast and has a population of 45,946. The county is largely rural, with its population centered primarily in small towns along the coast. The traditional economy was based on natural resource extraction, logging and fishing; however, in the past few decades it shifted to a tourism-based economy with seasonal service employment opportunities. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the population is White, 7.6 % is Hispanic, 1.1% is Asian, and 3.4% is Native American. The Native American population is centered in Siletz, Oregon where the tribal headquarters for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is located. The current unemployment rate in the county is 12%. In 2008, 16.7% of the population was living below poverty. Currently 33% of children in the county are in households receiving food stamps. Many households in Lincoln County do not have computers or broadband internet services. The elderly, who make up 20% of the county population, often lack basic computer skills. Many of the currently unemployed workers from the logging, fishing, construction, and services industry have no or minimal computer skills. The Central Oregon Coast Public Computer Centers Project plans address these issues by 1) creating and promoting public computer centers throughout the county that offer access to computer workstations and laptop computers with high speed internet access, 2) providing instruction on basic computer applications and operation. Through the public computer centers individuals will be able to connect with on-line classes, search academic databases, and use computer applications to improve their English language skills. The Central Oregon Coast Public Computer Centers project will quadruple the number of public computer workstations available to residents at eight sites in Lincoln County, Oregon. The sites are the Oregon Coast Community College North County Center in Lincoln City, the Oregon Coast Community College Central County Center in Newport/South Beach, the Oregon Coast Community College Center in Waldport, the Driftwood Library in Lincoln City, the Waldport Library, the Siletz Library, and the Worksource Oregon One-Stop Center in Newport. The number of public computers available at these sites through the county will jump from 47 to 196. Open public access, broadband connectivity, wireless access, and computer instruction will be available at all sites. A total of 3,930 individual will use the public access computers at the eight sites. An additional 921 individuals will take basic computer classes at the sites. Another 100 individuals will use the computers to improve their English language skills. The applicant, Oregon Coast Community College, is well qualified to implement the Public Computer Center Project. The management team at the College has worked together for over ten years. During that time, they started two highly successful education programs, Nursing and Aquarium Science, with federal start-up funds. These programs continue to prepare students for work in their respective careers. The
job placement rates for these programs are 95% within three months. Also during the past ten years, the College management team placed a general obligation bond before local voters for construction of permanent facilities. Voters passed the bond for $23.5 million in May of 2004. The College management team was able to secure $11.5 million in matching dollars from the Oregon legislature over the next five years for construction. In fall 2009, Lincoln County celebrated the opening of college facilities in Lincoln City, Newport, and Waldport, Oregon. The facilities were constructed on-time and on-budget. In the Central Oregon Coast Public Centers Computer project, the College will be working with long-time at the Worksource Oregon One-Stop Center and at four public libraries; Driftwood Library in Lincoln City, Newport Library, Waldport Library, and Siletz Library. As in typical in rural counties, these agencies have frequently worked together on issues such as literacy, cultural enrichment, programs for seniors, activities for youth, and job training programs. The project will directly create two full-time jobs. However, by improving the computer skills of an estimated 921 individuals in the computer classes, it will prepare them for further educational pursuits and improve their marketability in the job market. The overall cost of the project is $923,661 with $813,373 in federal funds and $110,228 in match. The non-federal match is 11.6%. A waiver of the 20% required match has been submitted.