Executive Summary

a. Essex County, NJ has a wealth of educational information and training resources - multiple universities, hospitals, medical schools, and law schools. There is a fundamental disconnect between them and much of the population, however, because of a failure to make their educational materials available in electronic form and providing computer facilities to the vulnerable populations in the community. This project would increase the amount of material by providing high quality digital production facilities to be shared among the partners, rather than a traditional proprietary lock on resources. It also will use computer centers to allow enhanced access to educational material using broadband connections and would be available to home computer users with broadband connections.

b. A collaborative approach to creating and distributing broadband content will involve more players and viewpoints - hence more material and users. "Open access" schemes have been cable and internet-based, and usually have had disappointing results. One entity usually ends up dominating the production or distribution processes. This project's focus on a partnership from the start attempts to minimize this type of result. This approach is also an innovative one insofar as it allows for end-to-end production and delivery of materials designed to assist vulnerable populations in Essex County.

c. See discussion in Section D, infra.

d. The collaborators have unique characteristics, in an interdisciplinary setting - community services, health care, law and the line. All are '501(c)(3) corporations. All are well established, long time members of their communities--e.g. 119 years for New York Law School ("NYLS"); 115 years for Goodwill Rescue Mission ("GRM"); 43 for Essex County College ("ECC"). For example, NYLS has produced and distributed cable access channels for more than 20 years and has offered public video streaming of its programming since 2004; ECC has taught computer skills for more than a decade.

Moreover, all of the Collaborators are in relatively close proximity and share a common community. The longest distance among Partners runs from NYLS to ECC through two dates - a distance of only 9 miles. Moreover, rough 15 percent of NYLS students were residents of New Jersey when admitted to law school, and a similar number take the bar annually in New Jersey.

e. ECC and GRM estimate that they currently place 25-50 students per year in jobs because of their computer skills. Use of the proposed computer centers naturally would increase overall skills, as would educational and training programs made available on video.

f. TBA