Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:**  NORTH PALM BEACH, VILLAGE OF

**Project Title:**  Library Center Computer Center Enhancements

**Project Type:**  Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary __________________________

The Village of North Palm Beach established the public computer center in 2008 on the first floor of the public library. The facility consists of 12 computer workstations, wireless broadband access and laptop workstations. Over the last year demand for use of the center and broadband access has increased by almost 300%. In 2008 the computer center experienced 13,000 users. That number has jumped in the first 9 months of 2009 to 35,000 users. The combination of the economic downturn, increased need for broadband access and the accessibility of the computer center have all contributed to the large increase in use. The recent closing of the nearby County library and computer center for 18 months will only result in the increase in numbers of users continuing. In an effort to meet the growing demand, improve broadband access and enhance education/training opportunities the proposed project will add 6 new fully functional workstations, 16 laptop connections, interactive education equipment and a printing system. The completion of the project will be the responsibility of the Village of North Palm Beach and the purchase and installation will be accomplished by a combination of experienced contractors and Village staff. The project will serve a large urban service area with a population of over 150,000 that consists of 5 municipalities. In addition users of the computer center come from a wide economic and social demographic which includes a large population of seniors. Seasonal residents to the area, while not counted in most population estimates also use the center and represent an underserved group. The Village believes that $43,930 cost of the project demonstrates a significant cost to benefit ratio. The increase in the number of users and the improved broadband access and education will address a growing need while utilizing current facilities and competitive purchasing procedures. It is anticipated that successful completion of the project will save or create approximately 2-3 jobs.