Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** PLEASANTVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

**Project Title:** Pleasantville Housing Authority Public Computer Centers

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary __________________________

Access to computers and broadband services within the City of Pleasantville is limited due to the economics of the residents who live there. Even in the 21st Century, the computer age, there exists an ever increasing gap between those who use computers and their ability to have access to the internet and those who do not have computer access. Residents who reside within the Pleasantville Housing Authority (PVHA) are at an even higher risk of being left behind the digital age because of limited incomes that preclude them from purchasing computers and/or internet service. In addition, the PVHA has two senior facilities where residents are even less likely to have access to computer and/or internet. Currently, the PVHA has an aging computer lab at the New Hope Community Center, a federally funded HOPE VI site, which is becoming outdated and not sufficiently equipped to service the number of residents and public members who wish to have access to the computers. Within the Senior Facility there is a small computer lab that is in need of significant upgrades and expansion to serve the increasing need for the senior population. According to a recently completed survey only 12% of PVHA’s senior population and 27% of the Housing Choice (Section 8) households have internet access. Furthermore, out of the 27% of Housing Choice clients who do have access only 23% of them have broadband and specifically 56% of the internet users are still using dial up as their primary internet access. The lack of internet access, in a City such as Pleasantville, is not surprising considering the median household income is $37,148 (ESRI 2009) and 14.4% of the population lives below the poverty rate (ESRI 2009). Condense that down to the actual population of the neighborhoods where the PVHA has the two computer centers the median income drops to a mere $18,756 (ESRI 2009) and poverty rate to 26.3% (ESRI 2009). This poverty and lack of access is within a community that is only fifteen minutes away from the regions No.1 employer, Atlantic City casino’s, and because of the lack of computer access/skills the residents of the PVHA are left without the marketable skills that would prove to competitive when applying for jobs in Atlantic City. Socioeconomic status, income and lack of education opportunities are among other factors associated with the limited broadband access in the PVHA and surrounding areas. Funding from NTIA, along with matching funds and supportive community partnerships will allow the PVHA to provide a quality and much needed computer facilities for the residents.