Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: NW GEORGIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Project Title: Sustainable Broadband for Northwest Georgia Housing Authority Residents

Project Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

Of the thirteen (13) NWGHA properties, only three (3) currently have computers centers. Ten (10) of the properties do not have computers. Because transportation obstacles disproportionately impact the poor, we know that our computer centers are in accessible locations for those who do no live on-site with a current computer lab. If funded, our project will allow for computers to be put in all our locations. In addition, we will have laptop computers available for residents to use in the comfort of their homes. The NWGHA feels that this program epitomizes the vision of the BTOP -- bringing broadband to populations that currently are underserved. We have families who are at risk and marginalized in society because of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, health issues, and more. The demographic of our residents include underserved populations such as: the unemployed, the working poor, the elderly, minority racial groups, the disabled, single-parents and their children. The Authority's hope is to have all residents recognize the power of broadband and technology, and how utilizing the internet as a tool can positively change their lives. Residents will be eligible to have a laptop computer for use in their home if they complete the computer training courses offered through Neighborhood Networks. For residents who have already participated in computer training, they are eligible to receive a computer immediately. The computer is for the resident and their family's use and will be available to them for as long as they reside in public housing. We estimate that in the first year, we will help 400 households and an estimated 800 individuals gain access to broadband. Upon leaving, residents would return the laptop to NWGHA for use by another resident. The NWGHA serves the residents of the public housing development located in Rome and Rockmart, Georgia. Our residents reside in Altoview Terrace, John Graham Homes, Park homes, Fairgrounds, Main High, and Willingham Village in Rome and Eastview Homes, Westview Homes, and Eastview Booker T. Washington Homes in Rockmart. Floyd County and the city of Rockmart are considered rural areas, and computer centers can be a challenge for residents to access. Transportation obstacles are challenges for many low-income individuals. NWGHA does provide transportation for residents attending computer education training and adult education classes and job training, but for residents wanting to access computers outside of formal instruction, transportation remains an obstacle. The goal of this program is to help eliminate the barriers to computer usage that many low-income individuals face. The NWGHA has been managing three computer labs with great success. The Authority has a qualified and committed IT manager who is a strong advocate for this project. NWGHA already operates three computer labs with great success through the Neighborhood Networks Program, and Adult Education program. NWGHA's programs and services have largely been made possible through a collaborative relationship between the Authority and various grant funding agencies and have earned the respect and support of numerous community
service and government agencies in Rome and Floyd County. We have qualified staff to teach and encourage residents in their broadband education. NWGHA is eager to be able to offer computers to residents. The NWGHA believes that through classes and trainings offered for residents in the computer centers, more residents will become employed and thus self-sufficient. It is the intention of the NWGHA to help residents improve the quality of their life, and believe that gaining employment and becoming self-sufficient is a possibility if they have access to the internet and other tools. Utilizing federal job creation methodology, NWGHA estimates that it will create seven jobs from the proposed project. Four of the newly created jobs would be for NWGHA residents. The position of Resident Aid would serve as a critical piece of the outreach efforts to encourage resident participation in the laptop program. The overall cost of this project is $912,048, with a request of $687,932 in federal grant assistance.