TCU Community Partnership, Inc. (TCU) and partnering agencies will promote: a) access to medical and health delivery; b) strategies to afford broadband through energy efficient living; and c) access to professionals in the green technology and healthcare industry. APPROACH: TCU has collaborated with multiple agencies to create the proposed Energy & Technologies Resource Training Complex (ETRTC)-Public Community Center (PCC) in Cabazon, CA. This site and five (5) satellite sites will provide improved access to broadband services among the 78,590 residents, covering 460.6 sq. mi. of rural communities. Six of the eight targeted cities/communities meet requirements for designation as a rural area. TCU will address specific problems in the targeted area which include: a) Inadequate access to computers with high-speed broadband service. To address this problem, TCU proposes building a Public Computer Center (PCC), as well as offering a program that refurbishes computers and offers discounted broadband subscriptions for residences. b) Limited knowledge, awareness and access to on-line and software programs or innovative technologies that promote health delivery. TCU's PCC project will enhance services for health care delivery by 1) Sustaining Access to Health Care Delivery, which includes two strategies: a) creating access points (PCC centers) for access; b) offering coordinated trainings on accessing health care; and c) creating a Cabazon Rural Health Innovative Technology Coalition that engages industry leaders on sustaining rural health care delivery. 2) Engaging Innovative Health Care Delivery Options- the ETRTC-PCC will expand the Remote/Distance Managed Care (RDMC) platform where specialty physicians provide managed care and mental health care through a web-based portal that allows an interactive, real-time doctor's visit for rural and underserved residents. The process, tele-psychiatry plus, will be initiated from RDMC offices in rural areas requiring high-speed broadband to access and retract digital health data. The PCC will also facilitate health education: 1) Sustaining Educational Opportunities- PCC designated sites will provide 320 hours of training monthly on health care delivery services available via broadband to over 11,542 seniors, 28,500 dislocated/unemployed residents, and 5,305 business owners/entrepreneurs. 2) Educational Assistance for Physicians occur as previous/current medical information is made available through encrypted authorized-only databases using emerging and existing broadband and SMART technologies. Efforts will be combined with Aviso-Health's 'smart pocket person' (a monitoring device that transports up-to-the-moment health readings). Combined data will provide physicians with relevant/current health data. c) Limited opportunities for building new skills that spur economic growth. To address this problem, TCU will pair its PCC with on-site partners that will provide training in high-demand industries, such as green technology and construction. Furthermore, TCU will offer support, training, and resources for small businesses and entrepreneurs, who are the primary source of new jobs. To implement its innovative project and
address these problems, TCU will: 1) Maintain Clear Project Purpose, including: a) assist in affordable high speed broadband subscriptions; b) construct shovel-ready 10,500 sq. ft. PCC site; c) establish area satellite sites; and d) support BTOP Statutory Purposes. 2) Ensure Project Provides Value-based Benefits: this includes a) implementing strategies for health care delivery and affordable broadband usage; b) promoting energy efficient living that promotes cost savings and broadband affordability; c) providing subsidized assistance to broadband subscriptions leading to over 17,917 households subscribing to quality broadband; and d) coordinating efforts for access to refurbished computers or CPU upgrade assistance. 3) Demonstrate Sufficient Resources: a) use capacity to secure 37% match to the project (29% cash); b) create the Cabazon Rural Health Innovative Technology Coalition committed to access to health among rural residents. 4) Ensure Project Viability: this includes a) adoption of the 'Innovative Energy and Technologies Business Ecosystem' platform that spurs economic growth and creates jobs; and b) creation of a project approach that can serve as a model for other rural areas with the propensity to initiate economic growth. DEMOGRAPHICS: The targeted area population is 78,590, with 7,073 small business owners. 56,810 (72.3%) are over the age of 18 and 15,389, (19.6%) are 65 or older. The ethnic breakdown is 57.3% White; 5.2% African American; 31.3% Hispanic; 2.2% Asian; 3.0% Native American; and 1.0% Other. The economic stability for the area is well below the statewide average. Moreover, the average poverty rate for the area is 21.9% (the State's is 13%). The median household income for the area is $29,324 (the State's is $58,361). Of the 15,389 Seniors, only 385 live in area 'assisted living' facilities, 90% are on fixed income, and over 80% require ongoing care. There are approximately 800 small businesses and 7,073 (9% of the total population) are entrepreneurs. Further, within the targeted counties there are approximately 38,352 displaced workers, largely due to the severe economic downturn. The unemployment rate is 48.8% for the area. Some of the targeted cities' unemployment rate has reached as high as 62%. There are an estimated 31,424 households, but only 9,740 current broadband users. As such, there is the potential for 21,684 broadband users/subscribers. TCU anticipates the following: (1) a 36.3% (8,673) increase in subscription of broadband use over 3 years due to program services. (2) Overall, the program will engage 23,890 residents, representing 1/3 the population. This will include providing the following services: (a) 1500 residents using the PCC annually; (b) 1,195 (5%) of the total population will receive refurbished computers; (c) 500 residents will receive discounted broadband subscriptions; (d) 3,583 (15%) residents will receive increased access to health care delivery through TCU's programs; (e) 8,361 (35%) residents will receive job training; (f) 44 small businesses and entrepreneurs will receive training through TCU's programs; and (g) 225 new jobs will be created. QUALIFICATIONS: TCU and local community agencies have worked to empower underserved populations in accessing needed resources. Additionally, TCU has strived to establish strong linkages within the area from public, private, government, and educational agencies to garner necessary support and matching resources for collaborative projects that benefit the community. A highly skilled team of professionals make the proposed project unparalleled with other rural area projects. Multiple federal and state agencies and foundations have given over $3 million in grants to TCU based on its board, expertise, and capacity to make changes in underserved areas. JOBS CREATED: TCU and partner Avisio Inc. will create over 225 jobs in three (3) years through the 'Innovative Energy and Technologies Business Ecosystem' platform for innovative energy and technology-based products. In addition, TCU and the Local 89 Labor Union will engage over 100 residents into its Green Energy Construction
Apprenticeship, with jobs starting at $12.95 an hour. TOTAL COST: The total cost of the project is $3,469,991. TCU offers a combined in-kind and cash match of $1,313,721.