Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: BLACKBELT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Project Title: BBT Computer Centers

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

BlackBelt Technologies (BBT) is a Woman owned, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise specializing in the delivery of technological products and services to governmental, health-care and educational institutions within the black belt region of the southeast. We believe that technology is the foundation and basis for systemic lasting cultural change. Systemic advancing change occurs when driven by technological imperatives that seeks to address the disparity between the urban and rural communities in government, education, business, entertainment and health-care. This disparity in products and services can be simply summed as 'Access'. Access to Resources, Access to Information, Access to Adequate Primary Diagnostic Health-Care, Access to Quality Education, and Access to Employment Opportunities. We believe that access to information and technology is the dynamic force that has the potential and capacity for the transformation of this region and bridge the gap between poverty and prosperity, life and death, illiteracy and literacy, as well as, under-employment, unemployment and employment. BBT is committed to the mission of providing the possibilities and opportunities for advancement our communities through the transformation effects of technology in education, medicine and government. We therefore seeks partnership with the Federal Government in the delivery of 'Technological Opportunities' to a region that has systematically been un-served and under-served by corporations throughout history. BBT is is seeking to address this disparity by the establishment of 8 Technology Centers of Excellence within Dallas and Perry County. The Centers (Uniontown Public Library, Potters Place Outreach Ministry, ATAP Community Development Corporation, (2) Selma YMCA, GWC Housing Authority, Valley Creek Housing Authority, & Selma University) will accelerate BBT's objectives in the bridging the technological, educational and economic divide by the implementation and establishment of technological facilities, professional and adult education, and regional information resource repositories. The proposed Centers will form a network across the city of Selma and Uniontown with the hub site being located at BBT regional headquarters. BBT is working with the following entities in the establishment of the Centers: 1. GWC Selma Housing Authority (expansion of their current capacity of 5 Workstations) 2. Valley Creek Housing Authority (expansion of current capacity of 5 Workstations) 3. Potters Place Ministries 4. ATAP Community development Corporation (expansion of current capacity of 2 Workstations) 5. Selma University (Historically Black College) 6. Uniontown Library (Expansion of Current Capacity) 7. Selma YMCA (Expansion of Current Capacity, 2 Sites) 8. BBT Regional Corporate Office The Centers will provide all the necessary resources for the delivery of professional, educational and recreational content to commercial, residential, medical and public service organizations within Dallas and Perry County. BBT is committed to the development local and regional economic opportunities by it current and proposed activities in Dallas and Perry County.
Based on our current activities we have directly created 4 permanent technical jobs and indirectly created 4 temporary job opportunities in the Selma. Current projects and estimates indicated that the establishment of the Centers of Excellence will create a total of 16 highly technical opportunities to be shared across 2 cities. Indirect opportunities will be created based on need for services not provided by BBT. We are aggressively seeking Call Center/Service Center options from our current manufacturer base. The technicians that will be hired will serve as 1st level support for clients throughout the nation. The corporate office at 2900 Broad Street, Selma, AL will serve as the training and technical for the development of areas of specialization in support of our broadband wireless partner and High Definition Video Surveillance partner. We estimate it will take approximately 12 months to develop the associated skills to support each manufacturer. BBT is providing the required 20% match in In-Kind Services and Cash Allocations. We purchased our corporate technical office at 2900 Broad in anticipation of funding of the proposed solution. The total project cost is $1,484,247 of which BBT is providing $299,883 and requesting federal funding in the amount of $1,184,364