**Executive Summary**

Statement of Need

Philadelphia presents a Tale of Two Cities. In Philadelphia, currently, one in five young people 16-24 years old are disconnected from both work and school; one-third of all adults are disconnected from the labor market; 138,000 adults do not possess a high school diploma; over two-thirds of adults are considered 'low literate'; and, according to an analysis of the 2000 Census by the Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, the city ranks near the bottom of the 100 largest cities in key indicators such as labor force participation rate (96th) and residents possessing a Bachelor's degree (92nd). These rankings stand against an economic context where 70 percent of new jobs, and almost all jobs that pay family sustaining wages, require a post-secondary degree. (Tale of Two Cities, 2007) Currently the unemployment rate is 9.7%. The academic environment in the Philadelphia public school system is challenging with respect to achieving the post secondary education milestone. The School District of Philadelphia, is the seventh largest in the nation by enrollment, serving a racially and ethnically diverse student population of over 210,000 students. The dropout rate citywide exceeds 45%. As many as 30% of the students do not use a computer in school, due to both roster and resource challenges. The School District was taken over by the State, and operates under the direction of a School Reform Commission. Many of the students live in public housing. The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), the 4th largest housing authority in the nation, houses over 85,000 low-income individuals, of which 40% are under 18 years of age. Sixty percent of the resident population of the PHA, which has developments in each of the targeted census tracts, has annual family incomes below $10,000. The employment rate at PHA is 22.13%. SSI accounts for 17.24%. Social Security accounts 20.94%. Public assistance and other accounts for 39.69% As such, the low annual incomes and low employment rates represents the highest concentration of poverty for families in Philadelphia. Approach Under BTOP, the PHA will create Multi-systemic Public Access Computer Technology (MPACT) Centers, with state of the art broadband technology, and programs. The software includes award winning educational and productivity materials proven to support the high academic achievement required for 21st Century opportunities in Philadelphia. Programming will include multimedia educational programming, as well as transformative grade appropriate educational programming provided by Communities in Schools, a non-profit started by the School District of Philadelphia to provide alternative education to both in-school and out of school youth. The MPACT Centers will serve as extended day digital programming and summer enrichment centers for academic credit. MPACT Centers will be located at 35 accessible public housing sites. Centers will be open 12 hours per day during weekdays and 6 hours on the weekend. Areas to be Served

The areas to be served include portions of all underserved areas in Philadelphia with Broadband reach of less than 40%. There are more than 140,000 residents from low-income
communities, of whom 85,000 are public housing residents. Qualification The lead anchor institution for the Philadelphia MPACT centers is the Philadelphia Housing Authority, which has operated the best practice Skills for Life program for over 9 years, which increased post secondary attendance from 3.8% among the program population to 79%. The work was accomplished with Community and Faith Based Organizations, utilizing computer assisted instruction and service learning. Critical skills beyond the programming includes the design and build experience within PHA, which has both internal and subcontracting capacity for immediate renovation and installation. Key partners, OIC and Communities in Schools are high performing organizations connecting communities to industries through education. Jobs Saved or Created The MPACT Centers will directly create 161 jobs, of which 97 are direct full time jobs, and 58 are indirect jobs, and 6 are induced jobs. Costs PHA is requesting $15,000,000 to upgrade and operate the MPACT centers for 24 months.