Who We Are The Newark Housing Authority ("NHA") is a public housing agency located in Newark New Jersey. NHA is charged with providing low-income residents in Newark with decent, safe and affordable housing. NHA manages approximately 8,000 housing units throughout Newark including townhouses, family developments and housing for the elderly and disabled. NHA also manages approximately 4,500 housing choice vouchers. The Public Housing tenants have an average household income of $6,509 and the Section 8 tenants have an average household income of $7,748. NHA has 13,238 prospective tenants on the waiting list to be housed. Why and What We Need Our tenants in Newark Housing Authority have limited resources to have broadband access in the communities we serve. This project seeks to establish a Tenant Information Center ("TIC"). This is a one-stop shop for both tenants and even for prospective tenants. It is a data, video and audio facility that will provide four (4) major components. First, these will a Kiosk that will house an inquiry system for both tenants and prospective tenants. This will give the tenants the ability to do the following: ' download, print, enter data and submit tenant application forms; ' inquire on the status of their application (waiting list); and ' ability to inquire/print a tenant information through a secured system to know their rent balances, next re-certification date and next inspection date, etc. Secondly, there will be an Education Hub, which will be a mini computer center with internet and loaded with education software for our tenants to use. We have an Education Academy through our Human Resources Department which has training software on computer applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint which we can deploy in this hub. We have also a connection with the NJ Department of Labor "LINKS" Program to help our tenants enter or re-enter the workforce with the proper basic skills and education. Thirdly, there will be a Video Conferencing facility using VoIP to encourage collaborative efforts between housing management and tenants as well as tenants among the various communities. Finally, there will be a Video Streaming facility to push News, Announcements (emergency/non emergency), Educational videos and even emergency preparedness in case of disaster. It is projected that these facilities will service over 30,000 people (21,000 tenants and 13,238 prospective tenants) What Are The Costs of The Project' The total cost of the project is estimated at $574,061. Materials will be the bulk of the costs at $401,145. This includes 130 computers for 26 communities, 26 wireless routers, 130 headphones, 26 printers, 26 VoIP phones, 26 HD communication systems (video bridge), 52 computers for the kiosk, 26 Ethernet ready TVs, 182 Computer Desk and Chairs, Cable/Broadband line and Tenant Information System software development. In addition will be costs associated with initial set-up costs ($41,750), part-time instructor ($41,600) and project management ($12,000). Of the $574,060.66 cost of this project, NHA is requesting a grant in the amount of $401,145. This is 70% of the cost of the project. Our Qualifications' NHA is
staffed with 10 IT professionals all with over 15 years of experience. We have business analyst, developers, network administrators/technician, and telecommunication specialists. NHA through its IT Department has completed the following projects for the agency: (1) A point-to-point 10GB Fiber to the Data Center of NHA’s main office located at 500 Broad Street Newark, New Jersey 07102 to all our communities/sites; (2) Deployed over 450 computers in our central office and our management offices and updated our data center in our central office; (3) Implemented an integrated system that houses our low income, section 8 and finance data; (4) Deployed 700 IP based cameras all over our communities with a central security hub operating 24/7; (5) Implemented an executive portal for management to track key housing indicators such as rent collection, re-certification and inspection. In addition, the NHA is also embarking upon implementation of a VoIP project for the agency during Fiscal Year 2011. Based on our current network infrastructure, it is ready for this technology and will provide better telecommunication service and reduce telecommunication costs. The “TIC” project is the next step to provide better customer service since both the integrated system and network infrastructure has been implemented. The benefits of the ‘TIC’ are: (1) This project will help hundreds of our tenants enter/reenter the workforce; (2) Increase potential our rent collection through streamline processing of prospective tenants which can be use to hire part time tenants to man the “TIC” center; (3) Provide our children with education programs/software which will help them achieve the goals of entering college (NHA has a scholarship foundation which helps high school senior enter college); and (4) Provide a venue for collaborative efforts through video conferencing.