Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name:  CULTURAL AFFAIRS, NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF

Project Title:  Nevada One Click Away

Project Type:  Public Computer Center

_______________________Executive Summary_______________________

The Nevada One Click Away project will provide Nevadans with expanded access to broadband services in 34 libraries in 15 of Nevada's 17 counties serving a population of 366,733. Expanded access will be achieved by replacing existing hardware and purchasing new hardware and software to increase the number of computers available and maximize their performance. The national economic crisis has critically weakened the Nevada economy in the last three years, resulting in a statewide unemployment rate of 13% and one of the highest foreclosure rates nationwide. These factors have dramatically increased the number of Nevadans turning to their local libraries for access to employment and government services, educational opportunities, and knowledgeable Librarian assistance. The Nevada One Click Away project requests $806,046.00 in federal support to match a project commitment of $304,539 (cash and in-kind) for a total project cost of $1,110,585.00. It seeks to leverage the strengths of the Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA), Cooperative Libraries Automated Network (CLAN), Carson City Library and Henderson District Public Libraries to meet the increased needs of Nevadans. NSLA will be responsible for administrative tasks and is the lead applicant. CLAN, Carson City Library and Henderson District Public Libraries are project partners and will be responsible for implementation at local libraries throughout the state. Nevada State Library and Archives: The NSLA is statutorily tasked with the coordination and support of the statewide library community. It has a proven track record in successfully implementing federally-funded statewide library projects including: Library Services and Technology Act annual awards ($1,700,000 on average) and two Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Mining the 21st Century Librarians awards: 2006 ($696,378) and 2003 ($361,000). Cooperative Libraries Automated Network (CLAN): CLAN is a consortium of member libraries whose public service area covers 87% of the area of Nevada (95,552.30 square miles) and serves an estimated 156,733 Nevadans, many of which are in the most remote areas of the state. Libraries are the only local resource people have for free access to internet job searches, online applications, resume preparation, banking needs, healthcare and unemployment filings, e-mail, and the services of experienced Librarians. These libraries are striving to meet the increased demands for resources at a time when their budgets are being cut, making it impossible to replace worn public access equipment or to expand access. CLAN libraries were polled to see what solutions could be implemented at their individual sites. Twenty-seven of the thirty-seven public accessible members are ready and need to replace and/or add hardware to meet the continual increasing demand for public access. Usage of library public access is constant. An estimated 3219 people a week visit the CLAN libraries referenced in this grant application. The hours those libraries are open varies between 20 and 57 hours. Equipment is in use from the time a library opens until it closes. This increasing demand for access results in long wait times, overbooking of
computers, and significant wear and tear on hardware. Providing expanded resources or replacing worn equipment will not directly create jobs, however it does provide the components necessary for more people to access any and all available information and tools that do. Carson City Library: The Carson City Library currently serves 57,600 Carson City residents, as the Capital City it also provides library services regionally to 103,544 from the surrounding counties of Douglas, Lyon, and Storey. In fiscal year 2009 the library had 60,468 uses of its public computing resources (20 computers). In fiscal year 2008 the library had 34,737 uses- a dramatic increase of approximately 75%. This increase was due to expanding computers and connectivity through private funding and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, however the current 21,532 square foot library built in 1969 has now reached its absolute capacity of public computing resources. The growth in computer use is also directly related to the current (12/2009) Carson City unemployment rate of 12.7%. Computer users are job searching and submitting online job applications. Creating greater computing capacity will help these individuals searching for employment and provide additional resources for seniors, youth and those who do not have the financial resources to have a computer and Internet access at home. The Carson City Library's proposal is to dramatically increase public computing resources in a planned project in downtown Carson City anchored by a new state of the art 60,000-80,000 square foot public library, business resource center and technology incubator. Carson City, Nevada is facing a serious economic crisis and City leadership in partnership with private industry- the gaming industry-specifically the Carson Nugget- is taking bold steps to help reinvent Nevada's economy. This project will build a central anchor for Carson City and the region by providing a public library with technology access, online resources and training for businesses and state of the art technology, computing resources and training for the youth of Carson City. Henderson District Public Libraries: Henderson Libraries currently serves 270,000 residents and sees 250,000 users accessing its public computers annually. Computer usage has increased by nearly 70% over the last 5 years. While Henderson Libraries has made efforts to increase its public computing capacity over the last decade, the last three fiscal years have seen significantly decreased revenues. These economic setbacks have created a public computing environment that is now out of date and inconsistent between libraries. Henderson Libraries' proposal calls for a standard public computing platform that has accessibility software and low vision keyboards for all library locations throughout the library district. This standard product deliverable will allow equitable access to all of Henderson's residents and add additional capacity for public computing. Henderson Libraries' team of IT professionals have a long history of developing IT systems and services for the Henderson population through the use of local, state and federal dollars. Further, the district's team of library staff present computer instruction in both English and Spanish (90-100 classes annually in Spanish) to residents of all ages, a growing segment being seniors. Much of this growth in computer use is related to job searching and online job application submission. The proposed project will maintain and highlight the importance of public computing within communities, especially those struggling with unemployment. Southern Nevada has seen some of the highest unemployment in the nation and currently stands at 13%. Creating greater computing capacity will help these individuals in their quest for employment and provide additional resources for seniors, youth and those who do not have the financial resources to have a computer and Internet access at home. In late 2010, the library district will be partnering with the Henderson Business Resource Center to assist in hosting small business workshops that target best practices, customer creation and retention and marketing practices. The Resource center, operated by the Henderson Chamber of Commerce,
could host more hands on workshops if computers were available. The district's downtown library will be able to assist with these efforts with greater capacity.