Executive Summary

Needs: The residents of the Muncie Housing Authority have limited access to web-based resources, or computer literacy training that can help them deal with day to day needs, as well as become better prepared to compete in today’s job market. Income level may not permit them to afford basic Internet access. Proposed Services: The Muncie Housing Authority Campus of Learners Broadband Project is designed to bring Internet Access, Web-Based Training and Placement Resources, and opportunities for residents to improve their computer and technology skills. The project entails several different services to be delivered to residents: Broadband Internet and Public Computer Access: - Each Public Housing property would be installed with public Wireless Mesh Network equipment, allowing residents to access the Internet through provided computers. - MHA Web Site would be expanded to allow residents to download or use materials designed for self-study programs, as well as information regarding medical, job training, placement, housing, health and wellness services in the community. - Access to content designed for residents of the Muncie Housing Authority, allowing better flow of information to and from residents. - Updated community e-mail system, to allow for better communications between residents and MHA, as well as other agencies. - Each facility would have a network printer in the community room and USB Drives available so residents could store and then print documents such as resumes. - Each facility would be equipped with AT&T Fiber Optic connections to the Internet which would be shared via a wireless mesh network. - Residents would have their computers granted access to the network. Outside Muncie residents could also get access for a monthly fee. Training and Support: - On Site Help Desk staff that will help residents use the web and PC’s effectively, and solve any technical issues. Project Reach and Demographics: The project will target Muncie Housing Authority residences in the Enterprise Zone. Potential users would include roughly 3000-3600 full-time residents of these Public Housing units, as well as city residents willing to pay fees for classroom instruction, computer assistance, and wireless broadband access. Muncie Housing Authority Population Demographics: Median Household Income 2007 $20,119 Persons Living Below Poverty Level, 2007 24.9% Unemployment Rate 2007 11.6% Unemployment Rate 2008 15.5% 18 and Over with at least High School Diploma 70.6% Qualifications of Applicants: The Muncie Housing Authority has an excellent track record of turning around distressed properties in Muncie and managing complex rebuilding projects in the city’s core. Their success at creating the new Millennium Place Development and Price Hall Neighborhood Network facility speaks to their commitment to their Public Housing clients and project management expertise. Muncie Housing Authority is working cooperatively with community organizations to implement this project, drawing on their expertise and wealth of resources. The strategic partners and community anchor institutions with Muncie Housing Authority on this project include: Muncie Public Library
Impact of Project: We expect that the project will immediately require seven full-time staff, divided between Help Desk and Education duties. These hires are to be recruited from the resident population and trained as needed. Over time, the project should generate additional employment opportunities in the community for better-prepared residents as well as a variety of home-based start-ups and work-study hires. We hope to help break the cycle of poverty in these families, and reduce their need for public assistance. Estimated new jobs/employment created Year One '7-14 Estimated new jobs/employment created Year Two '20-30 Estimated new jobs/employment created Year Three '40+

Estimated Economic Impact - $980,000 in new income for low-income residents over three years plus 10+ startup businesses with corresponding boost in employment, services and tax base. Estimated Cost of Project: This application hopes to raise approximately $2.3 Million of a total $3.3 Million Budgeted to proceed with this project. The breakdown would be:

Personnel - Help Desk and Support $525,000
Equipment - PC,s, Network, Wireless $535,000
Contract Support and Installation Labor $414,000
Broadband Cost, 3 years, AT&T $352,000

Estimated In Kind Support/Fees/Matching Funds ($1,012,625)