Applicant Name:    GARY, CITY OF

Project Title:     City of Gary's Computer Resource Learning Center

Project Type:     Public Computer Center

_______________________ Executive Summary_______________________

The use of the internet as the main influence of information exchange has increased exponentially in the last several years. The need for computer literacy has become essential for all generations whether new and or old. But, there's been a growing gap of technology illiteracy from the senior population to the rest of the society. As the pace of the internet age accelerates, something needs to be done to close the gap. There is a critical need in Gary, Indiana for a computer service-learning program. According to the City-Data.com, the July 2008 reports 95,920, a -6.6% drop since the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau. Seniors represent approximately 45% of the population. A computer service-learning program is different in terms of reaching major academic divisions, is fully integrated within the curriculum, and actively joins with community and corporate partners dedicated to empower and connect the elderly. Through this program a senior can achieve greater access to the ever changing society. The Gary Housing Authority, the Department of Community Development, Department of Economic Development, Indiana University Northwest, Best Buy Company Inc., and other key community partners will develop a Computer Learning Service program. The Computer Resource Center (CRC) will have a broad range of definitions with a wide range of implementation approaches and outcome projections. There are several key courses in CRC have identified as service learning experiences, however most of these are not within the context of comprehensive service learning experiences involving orientation, community/academic goals, reflection, personal and civic responsibility.