Applicant Name: SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE
Project Title: Akwesasne Broadband Adoption
Project Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Executive Summary

SRMT, is a rural and isolated tribal community where access to broadband service is limited or non-existent and most do not even own computers. Lack of computer knowledge and therefore broadband use exacerbates technology and market isolation of the St. Regis Mohawk community; which already suffers chronic unemployment and poverty. It is not enough to attain broadband to the community if the tribal members have never owned computers or have never had residential broadband service. A strategic effort must be applied to help tribal residents understand and use the full range of tools and resources made available. Equipment access, instructional training, and self-direction are vital to provide the necessary resources for the Tribe’s needs. This results in a computer literate community and a well-trained workforce prepared for global market competition. Without federal assistance, the necessary investments will be severely compromised and potentially unattainable altogether. The Tribe estimates 2750 residents annually enroll in the community’s digital literacy and job and business training cyber education courses. Regardless of education efforts and business initiatives, unemployment dramatically increased to approximately 11% in January 2010 compared to the New York State average for the same time period. 450 Mohawks lost jobs with the closing of General Motors and another 100 with Alcoa layoffs. The Tribe will coordinate the public computer centers deployment with two key governmental entities: the newly created Mohawk Network and the Tribe’s Administrative Office. The Tribe will also coordinate deployment and annual planning with the Tribe’s community centers, schools, libraries, senior service and Headstart programs. The Tribe will seek financial assistance and mentoring partnerships with the mutually beneficial community businesses. The Tribe will partner with the Educational Development Foundation, a cyber education foundation, providing a teaching curriculum and materials, as well as training for the Public Computer Centers. The project cost will be: At least 50 jobs will be generated, saved or will be placed through vocational or entrepreneurial efforts fostered through public computer centers, digital literacy and workforce training. see attached upload