Executive Summary of Overall Proposal: Overview: A large percentage New Mexico citizens being connected by this regional public computing center (PCC) network project, called New Mexico Broadband Enablement and Enhancement (B.E.E.) at each of the state's 115 libraries. Community Development Leagues of America (CDL) proposes a unique regionally networked computing center model to bring affordable, fourth-generation broadband services to all residents across the state. This broadband centric fully web-based network maximizes network dollars spent when compared with most other traditional computing center models in use today, while still delivering the latest proven technology center functions to improve lives and transfer life-long self-empowerment skills. This approach serves the largest possible segment of the population in each of the New Mexico communities it connects through broadband, by leveraging engaged local leadership, technology-based innovations in teaching and public safety, bottom-up transference of CDL's economic development and rural entrepreneurship models, and the use of software designed to create information and general presentations, online training materials, web conferencing, learning modules, and user desktop sharing. The appreciation for what broadband can do to improve one's life cannot simply be taught, it must be conveyed to those new to its potential, especially the most vulnerable populations in our communities, in a way that is thoroughly caught. The CDL PCC's labs and programmatic initiatives will assist multiple critical sectors including healthcare, life-long learning and early childhood development. CDL which brings a track record and management team needed to ensure increased broadband adoption rates and sustainability across this region. CDL will be assisted in these efforts by their project partners, including Telamon Corp. and the New Mexico Library Commission. a) A statement of the problem or need your project addresses with regard to improving broadband service adoption rates. All constituencies in the New Mexico B.E.E. network service area - residents, schools, libraries, healthcare and public safety facilities - need better broadband access and the opportunity to experience the transformative impact of broadband. In the counties and communities being interconnected with this proposal, not only is affordable high-speed broadband access lacking, but well below 40% of the resident consumers are currently subscribed to broadband services, so there is a dire need to both deliver and convey to the entire public in this region, a new appreciation for the difference broadband can make in direct improvement of their quality of life. b) Your overall approach to addressing the need, and how your approach is innovative. While leveraging maximum use of the small, often stretched pool of personnel available to help administer PCC in the state's libraries and our smaller rural towns, New Mexico B.E.E. will deliver its labs and programs via a virtual computing center, with public accessible PC workstations, providing customizable on-line meeting rooms; multiple meeting rooms per user; breakout sessions
within a meeting; VoIP; video conferencing; meeting recording; screen sharing, chat and whiteboarding; user management, administration and reporting; polling; and a central content library. New Mexico B.E.E. workstations are very easy to use, emphasizing the PC, a browser, and pervasive internet tools, e.g. adobe flash. c) Area(s) to be served; population of the target area(s), including demographic information; and the estimated number of potential users of your public computer center(s). Using all 115 libraries in the state. d) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement the project and achieve its intended results. CDL is particularly qualified to run this project having already facilitated community development processes, including community center design and deployment, around the state, as well as having designed and assisted in the deployment of similar types of statewide "collaborative networks". CDL will be working with its partners to provide selective free broadband access, and its public computing/ broadband education, awareness, training, together with key equipment for anchor institutions located throughout the region. Additionally, CDL is developing turnkey programs for housing projects, assisting/working with housing authorities and, towards horizontal federal agency collaboration, by helping establish HUD neighborhood networks as part New Mexico B.E.E.’s future planning. e) Jobs to be saved or created. It is anticipated that over the project’s beginning 3 year staging and outreach period, that over 50 new jobs will be created. f) Overall cost of the proposed project. Is $5,363,400.39 20% in cash match is being provided by the applicant as well, and the applicant is not receiving any federal support for non-recurring costs in the proposed funded service area.